RAVENS DRAFT

INFORMATION GUIDE

✗ ALL-PRO

RONNIE STANLEY

2016 - 1ST ROUND
(6TH PICK)

✗ NFL MVP

LAMAR JACKSON

2018 - 1ST ROUND
(32ND PICK)

✗ ALL-PRO

MARLON HUMPHREY

2017 - 1ST ROUND
(16TH PICK)

NFL DRAFT 2020

2020 BALTIMORE DRAFT PICKS

FIRST	28TH
SECOND	55TH (VIA ATL.)
SECOND	60TH
THIRD	92ND
THIRD	106TH (COMP)
FOURTH	129TH (VIA NE)
FOURTH	143RD (COMP)
FIFTH	170TH (VIA MIN.)
SEVENTH	225TH (VIA NYJ)

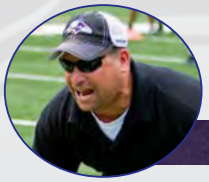
2020 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE

"[The Draft] is the lifeblood of this organization, and we take it very seriously. We try to make it a science, we really do. But in the end, it's probably more of an art than a science. There's a lot of nuance involved. It's a big-picture thing. It's a lot of bits and pieces of information. It's gut instinct. It's experience, which I think is really, really important."

Eric DeCosta
Executive VP & General Manager
25th Season w/ Ravens, 2nd as EVP/GM

Ozzie Newsome
Executive Vice President
25th Season w/ Ravens

Joe Hortiz
Director of Player Personnel
23rd Season w/ Ravens



George Kokinis
Director of Player Personnel
24th Season w/ Ravens

Pat Moriarty
Sr. VP of Football Operations

Vincent Newsome
Sr. Player Personnel Exec.

Nick Matteo
Director of Football Admin.

David McDonald
Dir. of Research & Develop.

Mark Azevedo
Player Personnel Coord.

Brandon Berning
MW/SW Area Scout

David Blackburn
West Area Scout

Joey Cleary
Northeast Area Scout

Dwaune Jones
Midwest Area Scout

Andrew Raphael
Southeast Area Scout

Bobby Vega
East Area Scout

Kevin Weidl
SE/SW Area Scout

Corey Frazier
Pro Scout

Patrick Williams
College Scout

Corey Krawiec
Mgr., Player Eval. & Analytics

"Q" Attenoukon
Player Personnel Assistant

Patrick McDonough
Player Personnel Assistant

Chas Stallard
Player Personnel Assistant

Jenn Werner
Exec. Asst. to EVP & GM

Maggie Domanowski
Personnel Admin. Asst.

Sarah Mallepalle
Player Personnel Analyst

Derrick Yam
Quantitative Analyst

ALWAYS MORE. NEVER LESS.

SUCCESS ACROSS THE BOARD

1ST — Jonathan Ogden ('96), Ray Lewis ('96), Peter Boulware ('97), Chris McAlister ('99), Jamal Lewis ('00), Todd Heap ('01), Ed Reed ('02), Terrell Suggs ('03), Haloti Ngata ('06), Joe Flacco ('08), Jimmy Smith ('11), C.J. Mosley ('14), Ronnie Stanley ('16), Marlon Humphrey ('17), Lamar Jackson ('18), Marquise Brown ('19) *Note: Ogden, Lewis and Reed were all enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.*

2ND — Jamie Sharper ('97), Ray Rice ('08), Torrey Smith ('11), Courtney Upshaw ('12), Kelechi Osemele ('12), Timmy Jernigan ('14)

3RD — Casey Rabach ('01), Marshal Yanda ('07), Lardarius Webb ('09), Brandon Williams ('13), Orlando Brown Jr. ('18), Mark Andrews ('18)

4TH — Edwin Mulitalo ('99), Jarret Johnson ('03), Le'Ron McClain ('07), Dennis Pitta ('10), Kyle Juszczyk ('13), Za'Darius Smith ('15), Tavon Young ('16)

5TH — Jermaine Lewis ('96), Dawan Landry ('06), Arthur Jones ('10), Pernell McPhee ('11), Rick Wagner ('13), Nick Boyle ('15), Matthew Judon ('16)

6TH — Adalius Thomas ('00), Chester Taylor ('02), Sam Koch ('06), Haruki Nakamura ('08), Tyrod Taylor ('11), Chuck Clark ('17), Bradley Bozeman ('18)

7TH — DeAngelo Tyson ('12), Michael Campanaro ('14), Zach Sieler ('18)

RFA — Mike Flynn ('97), Priest Holmes ('97), Will Demps ('02), Bart Scott ('02), Ma'ake Kemoeatu ('02), Jameel McClain ('08), Dannell Ellerbe ('09), Morgan Cox ('10), Justin Tucker ('12), James Hurst ('14), Zach Orr ('14), Patrick Onwuasor ('16), Michael Pierce ('16), Matt Skura ('16), Patrick Ricard ('17), Gus Edwards ('18)

CHUCK CLARK
2017 6TH-ROUND PICK

NICK BOYLE
2015 5TH-ROUND PICK

MATTHEW JUDON
2016 5TH-ROUND PICK

ORLANDO BROWN JR.
2018 3RD-ROUND PICK

MARK ANDREWS
2018 3RD-ROUND PICK

2020 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE

In 2019, Eric DeCosta completed his first year as executive vice president and general manager of the Ravens. He was the architect behind a Baltimore team that finished a franchise-best 14-2, featured an NFL record-tying 13 players (Cowboys, 2007) on the Pro Bowl roster and boasted a second-year quarterback who was the league's unanimous MVP.

In 2020, DeCosta is directing his second NFL draft. If history repeats itself, Eric, directors of player personnel Joe Hortiz and George Kokinis and EVP Ozzie Newsome and Co. will tab players who will make immediate and long-lasting impacts on the Ravens' continued success as a playoff contender.

"[The Draft] is the lifeblood of this organization, and we take it very seriously," states DeCosta, who enters his 25th season with the team. (DeCosta spent seven years – 2012-18 – as assistant GM prior to becoming the chief decision-maker in 2019.) "We try to make it a science, we really do. But in the end, it's probably more of an art than a science. There's a lot of nuance involved. It's a big-picture thing. It's a lot of bits and pieces of information. It's gut instinct. It's experience, which I think is really, really important."

Baltimore's process includes 27 full-time members of the scouting department, but also receives valuable input from coaches. Much of the staff has been with the franchise since it started in 1996 or has graduated from the "20/20" club. The "20/20" group includes members who began with the Ravens as young assistants and grew into evaluators with more input. The term refers to hiring "20-year-olds for $20,000." "Actually, the guys started when they were a little older than 20 and for more than $20,000, but that's what we call them," Newsome adds. (DeCosta is a graduate of the "20/20" club.)

"[Eric DeCosta] views himself as a scout first, even though his overall knowledge of football is broad and impressive. Hall of Famers like Ron Wolf, Bill Polian and now Gil Brandt view themselves as scouts first. Probably 90 percent of GMs right now have a deep scouting background. It helps Eric lead our group. They know he understands the world of scouting. He was in the trenches for many years." – Ozzie Newsome

The Ravens do not belong to the National Football Scouting group, which provides member teams a list of and reports on players eligible for the draft. "We make our own list, and that means we look at all players on a college roster," DeCosta notes. Baltimore's personnel department includes a large support staff

2019 First-Round Pick WR Marquise Brown

who help handle the load. "We do a lot of cross-checking," DeCosta offers. "A number of us look at everyone, and then we have the area scouts look at certain players from other regions so we get multiple grades and opinions on all of the players."

Once the Ravens define a player as a "draftable" talent, John Harbaugh and his staff are assigned to add more study, which could include visits and workouts with some of the players.

"Over the years, Ozzie has assembled such a good, hard-working personnel staff, but what has made it even better is the enthusiasm and thorough work done by Coach Harbaugh and his staff," DeCosta affirms. "Their input has had impact on our board and will again within this draft."

The Ravens' process has always encouraged scouts and coaches to have strong opinions. "We have very open dialogue. We want everyone's opinion, especially from the scouts who have looked at the players the longest. I think another strength of our room is that we respect and listen to each other," Newsome says.

Baltimore's scouting staff always talks about taking the "highest-rated player on our board" when it comes time to select a player. The Ravens' history proves that. When it had a Pro Bowl left tackle with Tony Jones, Baltimore selected 11-time Pro Bowler and Hall of Famer Jonathan Ogden, who was the first pick (fourth overall in '96) in team history. When they had Pro Bowl players like Priest Holmes and Shannon Sharpe, the Ravens selected Jamal Lewis and Todd Heap in the first round.

"We have a lot of confidence in our staff," DeCosta declares. "I believe we have the league's best scouts, and our process makes draft day efficient, exhilarating and fun. All the work we put in throughout the year allows us to feel confident and prepared as we take that next step to strengthen our team each April."

The Ravens have produced five all-time AP Player of the Year honors and one AP NFL MVP. Baltimore has also had two players earn Defensive ROY, two garner Super Bowl MVP honors and three selected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. All of these players (below) are Ravens' draft picks.

Draft Pick (Year)	Major Accolades
Jonathan Ogden (1996)	Pro Football Hall of Fame (2013)
Ray Lewis (1996)	2000 & 2003 Def. POY; SB XXXV MVP; Pro Football HOF (2018)
Peter Boulware (1997)	1997 Defensive Rookie of the Year
Jamal Lewis (2000)	2003 Offensive Player of the Year
Ed Reed (2002)	2004 Defensive POY; Pro Football HOF (2019)
Terrell Suggs (2003)	2003 Defensive ROY; 2011 Defensive POY
Joe Flacco (2008)	Super Bowl XLVII MVP
Lamar Jackson (2018)	2019 NFL MVP

Ed Reed
1st Round: 2002
Nine-Time Pro Bowler & Hall of Famer

2020 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE

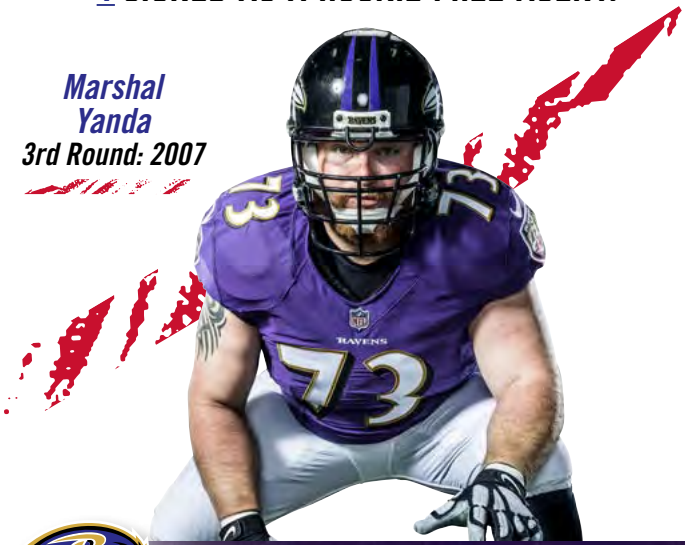
RAVENS' HOMEGROWN PRO BOWLERS

Year Drafted (Rd.)	Name	Pro Bowls
1996 (1st)	LB Ray Lewis	13
1996 (1st)	T Jonathan Ogden	11
2002 (1st)	S Ed Reed	9
2007 (3rd)	**G Marshal Yanda**	**8**
2003 (1st)	OLB Terrell Suggs	7
2006 (1st)	DT Haloti Ngata	5
1997 (1st)	OLB Peter Boulware	4
2014 (1st)	LB C.J. Mosley	4
2010 (RFA)	**LS Morgan Cox #**	**3**
1999 (1st)	CB Chris McAlister	3
2008 (2nd)	RB Ray Rice	3
2012 (RFA)	**K Justin Tucker #**	**3**
2001 (1st)	TE Todd Heap	2
1996 (5th)	WR/RS Jermaine Lewis	2
2007 (4th)	FB Le'Ron McClain	2
2000 (6th)	OLB Adalius Thomas	2
2018 (3rd)	**TE Mark Andrews**	**1**
2018 (3rd)	**T Orlando Brown Jr.**	**1**
2007 (1st)	G Ben Grubbs	1
2017 (1st)	**CB Marlon Humphrey**	**1**
2018 (1st)	**QB Lamar Jackson**	**1**
2016 (5th)	**OLB Matthew Judon**	**1**
2013 (4th)	FB Kyle Juszczyk	1
2006 (6th)	P Sam Koch	1
2000 (1st)	RB Jamal Lewis	1
2017 (RFA)	**FB Patrick Ricard #**	**1**
2002 (RFA)	LB Bart Scott #	1
2016 (1st)	**T Ronnie Stanley**	**1**
2013 (3rd)	DT Brandon Williams	1

Undrafted rookie free agent **Bold indicates 2019 Pro Bowler**

THE RAVENS HAVE HAD 49 DIFFERENT PLAYERS EARN PRO BOWL HONORS SINCE THE TEAM'S 1996 INCEPTION. OF THOSE, 29 ARE HOMEGROWN – 25 DRAFTED AND 4 SIGNED AS A ROOKIE FREE AGENT.

Marshal Yanda
3rd Round: 2007



Eight-Time Pro Bowler & All-Pro

Ray Lewis
1st Round: 1996

Ravens' 2nd-Ever Pick & Hall of Famer

Baltimore has drafted three players (Jonathan Ogden, Ray Lewis & Ed Reed) who were selected to the Hall of Fame. For Ogden & Lewis, it was the first time ever two players were drafted in the same round (1st in 1996) by a team and reached the HOF in their initial year of eligibility.

The Ravens have tabbed 25 players in the first round. These picks have earned 64 combined Pro Bowls, multiple POTY Awards, an NFL MVP honor, two Super Bowl MVPs and three HOF selections.

RAVENS ALL-TIME FIRST-ROUND DRAFT PICKS

Year	Name	Pick	Pro Bowls
1996	T Jonathan Ogden* –	4	11
1996	LB Ray Lewis* ++ ~ –	26	13
1997	LB Peter Boulware*	4	4
1998	CB Duane Starks*	10	
1999	CB Chris McAlister*	10	3
2000	RB Jamal Lewis*=	5	1
2000	WR Travis Taylor	10	
2001	TE Todd Heap*	31	2
2002	S Ed Reed*+ –	24	9
2003	OLB Terrell Suggs*+	10	7
2003	QB Kyle Boller	19	
2005	WR Mark Clayton*	22	
2006	DT Haloti Ngata*	12	5
2007	G Ben Grubbs*	29	2
2008	QB Joe Flacco^ ~	18	
2009	T Michael Oher*	23	
2011	CB Jimmy Smith	27	
2013	S Matt Elam	32	
2014	LB C.J. Mosley*	17	4
2015	WR Breshad Perriman	26	
2016	T Ronnie Stanley	6	1
2017	CB Marlon Humphrey	16	1
2018	TE Hayden Hurst	25	
2018	QB Lamar Jackson%	32	1
2019	WR Marquise Brown	25	

% NFL MVP ~ Super Bowl MVP + Defensive Player of the Year
= Offensive Player of the Year – Pro Football Hall of Fame
* All-Rookie Team ^ NFL Rookie of the Year (Fan Vote)

2020 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE

"Three guarantees in life: Death, taxes and the Ravens ruling the draft."

– Adam Schein, SiriusXM/NFL.com

DRAFT DETAILS

• Fifty-eight prospects are confirmed to participate virtually in the 2020 NFL Draft. The draft begins with the first round on Thursday night, April 23, and continues Friday, April 24, with Rounds 2-3. The draft will conclude on Saturday, April 25, with Rounds 4-7.

• LSU leads all colleges with eight participating players to be featured virtually, while Alabama will have seven players take part. The SEC leads all conferences with 24 prospects confirmed to participate in the draft event.

DATES/TIMES

• Round 1: Thursday, April 23 at 8 p.m. ET
• Rounds 2-3: Friday, April 24 at 7 p.m. ET
• Rounds 4-7: Saturday, April 25 at 12 p.m. ET

• The 2020 NFL Draft will also serve as a three-day virtual fundraiser, benefitting six charities selected by the NFL Foundation that are battling the spread of COVID-19 and delivering relief to millions in need. The "Draft-A-Thon" will be featured across the live coverage of ABC, ESPN, ESPN Deportes and NFL Network and pay tribute to healthcare workers and first responders in a variety of ways.

Brandon Williams
3rd Round: 2013

2018 Pro Bowler

"The thing about Eric [DeCosta] is he's highly intelligent. But on top of that, he was very eager and remains that way – eager to learn, listen, look, watch what other people do. Seems like people who have that ability tend to move forward in whatever profession they're in."

– Iowa head coach & former Ravens assistant Kirk Ferentz

ALL-TIME DRAFT PICK BREAKDOWN

(24 Ravens Drafts - 201 Picks)

Schools w/ Most Selections	Alabama (11) & Oklahoma (11)
Offensive Players Selected	109
Defensive Players Selected	89
Specialists Selected	3
First-Round Offensive Players	14
First-Round Defensive Players	11
Homegrown Pro Bowl Players	25
First-Team All-Pro Players	13
Hall of Famers	3 (Jonathan Ogden, Ray Lewis, Ed Reed)
NFL MVP	1 (Lamar Jackson)
Defensive POY	3 (R. Lewis - twice, E. Reed, T. Suggs)
Offensive POY	1 (Jamal Lewis)
Defensive ROY	2 (Peter Boulware, Terrell Suggs)
Super Bowl MVP	2 (Ray Lewis, Joe Flacco)

DRAFT SELECTIONS BY POSITION

QB	13	DT	14
RB	15	CB	18
FB	5	LB	18
WR	29	OLB/DE	23
TE	13	S	16
T	11	P	2
G	17	K	0
C	6	LS	1

Many standout players originally drafted by the Ravens have gone on to earn long-term and lucrative second contracts with other teams. Below is a list of such players drafted since 2010.

Draft Pick (Year)	New FA Team / Reported Contract
DT Arthur Jones ('10)	Colts / 5 years, $33 million
WR Torrey Smith ('11)	49ers / 5 years, $40 million
OLB Pernell McPhee ('11)	Bears / 5 years, $38.75 million
QB Tyrod Taylor ('11)*	Bills / 2 years (6-year ext.), $92 million
G Kelechi Osemele ('12)**	Raiders / 5 years, $58.5 million
FB Kyle Juszczyk ('13)***	49ers / 4 years, $21 million
T Rick Wagner ('13)	Lions / 5 years, $47.5 million
C Ryan Jensen ('13)	Bucs / 4 years, $42 million
LB C.J. Mosley ('14)	Jets / 5 years, $85 million
OLB Za'Darius Smith ('15)*	Packers / 4 years, $66 million

* Pro Bowls with new team

RAVENS PICKS BY SCHOOL

Alabama 11, Arizona 2, Arizona State 2, Auburn 1, Ball State 1, Baylor 1, Boise State 1, Bowling Green 1, BYU 2, California 2, Cal Poly 1, Central Florida 3, Central Missouri State 1, Cincinnati 2, Coastal Carolina 1, Colorado 3, Colorado State 1, Colorado State - Pueblo 1, Delaware 3, East Carolina 2, Eastern Washington 1, Elon 1, Ferris State 1, Florida 4, Florida International 1, Florida State 3, Georgia 2, Georgia Tech 5, Grand Valley State 1, Harvard 1, Houston 1, Illinois 1, Indiana 2, Iowa 2, Iowa State 1, Kansas State 2, Kentucky 3, Louisiana Tech 2, Louisville 4, Maryland 3, Miami (FL) 6, Michigan 3, Minnesota 2, Mississippi 1, Mississippi State 1, Missouri Southern State 1, Montana 1, Morehouse 1, Navy 1, Nebraska 2, New Mexico 2, New Mexico State 2, Nicholls State 1, Norfolk State 1, North Carolina 1, Northern Arizona 1, Northwestern 1, Northwestern State 1, Notre Dame 7, Ohio State 2, Ohio University 1, Oklahoma 11, Oklahoma State 1, Oregon 4, Oregon State 2, Penn State 4, Rutgers 1, San Diego State 1, South Carolina 1, South Carolina State 1, Southern California 2, Southern Mississippi 2, Southwest Louisiana 1, Stephen F. Austin 1, Syracuse 3, Texas Christian 1, Temple 2, Tennessee 4, Tennessee State 1, Texas 4, Texas A&M 2, Texas Southern 1, Texas Tech 1, Toledo 1, Trinity International 1, UCLA 3, Utah 3, UTEP 1, Virginia 5, Virginia Tech 4, Wagner 1, Wake Forest 2, Washington State 1, Weber State 2, Western Illinois 1, Wisconsin 2, Wyoming 1

2020 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE

2020 NFL FIRST-ROUND DRAFT ORDER

(as of April 20)

Pick	Team	2019 Record
1.	Cincinnati Bengals	2-14
2.	Washington Redskins	3-13
3.	Detroit Lions	3-12-1
4.	NY Giants	4-12
5.	Miami Dolphins	5-11
6.	LA Chargers	5-11
7.	Carolina Panthers	5-11
8.	Arizona Cardinals	5-10-1
9.	Jacksonville Jaguars	6-10
10.	Cleveland Browns	6-10
11.	NY Jets	7-9
12.	Las Vegas Raiders	7-9
13.	San Francisco 49ers (via Ind.)	13-3
14.	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	7-9
15.	Denver Broncos	7-9
16.	Atlanta Falcons	7-9
17.	Dallas Cowboys	8-8
18.	Miami Dolphins (via. Pit.)	5-11
19.	Las Vegas Raiders (via Chi.)	7-9
20.	Jacksonville Jaguars (via LAR)	6-10
21.	Philadelphia Eagles	9-7
22.	Minnesota Vikings (via Buf.)	10-6
23.	New England Patriots	12-4
24.	New Orleans Saints	13-3
25.	Minnesota Vikings	10-6
26.	Miami Dolphins (via Hou.)	5-11
27.	Seattle Seahawks	11-5
28.	**Baltimore Ravens**	**14-2**
29.	Tennessee Titans	9-7
30.	Green Bay Packers	13-3
31.	San Francisco 49ers	13-3
32.	Kansas City Chiefs	12-4

RAVENS DRAFT PICKS ON CURRENT ROSTER

(2019 Games Played/Started in Parenthesis)

1st Round (5)

Name	Drafted - Year
CB Jimmy Smith (9/5)	1 (27th) - 2011
T Ronnie Stanley (14/14)	1 (6th) - 2016
CB Marlon Humphrey (16/15)	1 (16th) - 2017
QB Lamar Jackson (15/15)	1b (32nd) - 2018
WR Marquise Brown (14/11)	1 (25th) - 2019

2nd Round (1)

OLB Tyus Bowser (16/0)	2 (47th) - 2017

3rd Round (5)

DT Brandon Williams (14/14)	3 (94th) - 2013
T Orlando Brown Jr. (16/16)	3a (83rd) - 2018
TE Mark Andrews (15/4)	3b (86th) - 2018
OLB Jaylon Ferguson (14/9)	3a (85th) - 2019
WR Miles Boykin (16/11)	3b (93rd) - 2019

4th Round (7)

CB Tavon Young (IR)	4a (104th) - 2016
WR Chris Moore (14/1)	4b (107th) - 2016
CB Anthony Averett (9/3)	4a (118th) - 2018
WR Jaleel Scott (3/0)	4c (132nd) - 2018
RB Justice Hill (16/0)	4a (113th) - 2019
G Ben Powers (1/0)	4b (123rd) - 2019
CB Iman Marshall (3/0)	4c (127th) - 2019

5th Round (3)

TE Nick Boyle (16/15)	5a (171st) - 2015
OLB Matthew Judon (16/16)	5 (146th) - 2016
DT Daylon Mack (1/0, IR)	5 (160th) - 2019

6th Round (5)

P Sam Koch (16/0)	6a (203rd) - 2006
S Chuck Clark (16/12)	6 (186th) - 2017
S DeShon Elliott (6/0, IR)	6a (190th) - 2018
G/C Bradley Bozeman (16/16)	6c (215th) - 2018
QB Trace McSorley (1/0)	6 (197th) - 2019

TIMING OF THE ROUNDS

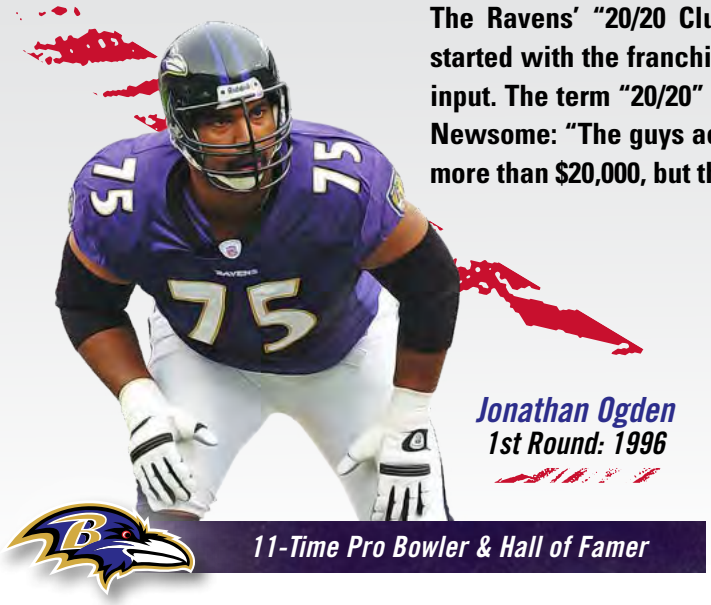
- The 2019 NFL Draft's first-round selections kicked off at 8:13 p.m. ET and were completed at 11:52 p.m. ET.
- Longest first round since 1967: 2007 (6 hours, 8 minutes)
- Shortest first round since 1967: 1972 (2 hours)
- As first implemented in 2008, teams are allowed 10 minutes to draft in the first round, 7 minutes in the second, 5 minutes in the third-sixth and 4 minutes in the seventh.

First Round: 10 minutes
Second Round: 7 minutes
Third-Sixth Rounds: 5 minutes
Seventh Round: 4 minutes

Jimmy Smith
1st Round: 2011

2011 1st-Round Pick / 14 Career INTs

2020 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE



Jonathan Ogden
1st Round: 1996

11-Time Pro Bowler & Hall of Famer

The Ravens' "20/20 Club" includes members of the team's personnel staff who started with the franchise as young assistants and grew into evaluators with more input. The term "20/20" refers to hiring 20-year-olds for $20,000. According to Ozzie Newsome: "The guys actually started when they were a little older than 20 and for more than $20,000, but that's what we call them."

RAVENS "20/20 CLUB" GRADUATES
(Current Personnel Staff)

Name	Joined Ravens	Current Title
George Kokinis	1991 (w/ Browns)	Dir. of Player Personnel
Eric DeCosta	1996	EVP & General Manager
Joe Hortiz	1998	Dir. of Player Personnel
Mark Azevedo	2005	Player Personnel Coor.
David Blackburn	2007	West Area Scout
Andrew Raphael	2013	Southeast Area Scout
Brandon Berning	2015	Midwest/SW Area Scout
Joey Cleary	2015	Northeast Area Scout
Patrick Williams	2016	College Scout
Corey Frazier	2017	Pro Scout

"Eric DeCosta works hard and does a great job. He's been with this organization for a long time. ... Eric helped build a Super Bowl winner, all under the leadership of Ozzie Newsome, who is a Hall of Fame player and a Hall of Fame GM." – Mel Kiper Jr., ESPN

COMPENSATORY PICKS

A total of 32 compensatory choices were awarded to 15 teams in 2020. Under rules for compensatory selections, a team losing more or better compensatory free agents ("CFA") than it acquires in the previous year is eligible to receive compensatory draft picks.

Compensatory free agents are determined by a formula based on salary, playing time and postseason honors. The formula was developed by the NFL Management Council. Not every free agent lost or signed by a club is covered by this formula. No club may receive more than four compensatory picks in any one year.

Since 1994 (the first year compensatory draft picks were established), the Ravens have been awarded an NFL-high 52 compensatory selections (see right chart).

Most Compensatory Picks
(Since 1994)

1. Baltimore. 52
2. Dallas. 43
   New England 43
4. Green Bay 42
5. Los Angeles Rams 37

2020 NFL COMPENSATORY PICKS

Round	Selection	Team
3	33-97	Houston
3	34-98	New England
3	35-99	NY Giants
3	36-100	New England
3	37-101	Seattle
3	38-102	Pittsburgh
3	39-103	Philadelphia
3	40-104	LA Rams
3	41-105	Minnesota
3	**42-106**	**Baltimore**
4	33-139	Tampa Bay
4	34-140	Chicago
4	35-141	Miami
4	36-142	Washington
4	**37-143**	**Baltimore**
4	38-144	Seattle
4	39-145	Philadelphia
4	40-146	Philadelphia
5	33-178	Denver
5	34-179	Dallas
6	33-212	New England
6	34-213	New England
6	35-214	Seattle
7	33-247	NY Giants
7	34-248	Houston
7	35-249	Minnesota
7	36-250	Houston
7	37-251	Miami
7	38-252	Denver
7	39-253	Minnesota
7	40-254	Denver
7	41-255	NY Giants

Sam Koch
6th Round (comp.): 2006

2015 Pro Bowler

RAVENS ALL-TIME DRAFT CHOICES

1996

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1a	4	G/T	Jonathan Ogden	UCLA
1b	26	LB	Ray Lewis	Miami
2b	55	CB	DeRon Jenkins	Tennessee
5b	153	WR	Jermaine Lewis	Maryland
6a	172	LB	Dexter Daniels	Florida
6b	186	WR	James Roe	Norfolk State
7b	238	QB	Jon Stark	Trinity Intl.

Obtained second 1st-round choice (26) from SF along with 49ers 1995 1st-, 3rd- and 4th- (from KC) round picks for Cle. 1995 1st-round pick (obtained from Atl. for RB Eric Metcalf and Cle. original 1995 1st-round pick). First 2nd-round choice (35) was traded to TB for TE Harold Bishop. Obtained second 2nd-round choice (55) from Den. for 1996 3rd-, 4th- and 7th-round picks. First 5th-round choice (136) was traded to NO for DB Reginald Jones. Obtained second 5th-round pick (153) from Atl. for G Gene Williams. Third 5th-round choice (157) obtained from Phi. to Dal. for 1997 4th-round pick. Obtained second 6th-round choice (186) from Jax. (supplemental) along with Jaguars 1995 5th-round pick for Cle. 1995 4th-round pick. Obtained second 7th-round choice (238) from Phi. for DL Ronnie Dixon.

1997

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	4	LB	Peter Boulware	Florida State
2a	34	LB	Jamie Sharper	Virginia
2b	58	S	Kim Herring	Penn State
3	64	RB	Jay Graham	Tennessee
4b	118	LB	Tyrus McCloud	Louisville
5	134	C	Jeff Mitchell	Florida
6a	167	FB	Steve Lee	Indiana
6b	194	LB	Cornell Brown*	Virginia Tech
7a	205	DE	Chris Ward	Kentucky
7b	234	QB	Wally Richardson*	Penn State
7c	236	S	Ralph Staten*	Alabama
7d	238	DT	Leland Taylor*	Louisville

Obtained second 2nd-round choice (58) from Den. for T Tony Jones. First 4th-round choice (100) was traded to Atl. through Sea. for G Jeff Blackshear. Obtained second 4th-round pick from Dal. for 1996 5th-round pick (obtained from Phi.).

1998

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	10	CB	Duane Starks	Miami
2	42	WR	Patrick Johnson	Oregon
5a	124	DT	Martin Chase	Oklahoma
5b	133	S	Ryan Sutter	Colorado
6a	154	LB	Ron Rogers	Georgia Tech
6b	164	T	Sammy Williams	Oklahoma
7b	241	TE	Cam Quayle*	Weber State

Traded 3rd-round choice (71) along with 1998 4th-round pick (93) to Ind. for QB Jim Harbaugh and Colts 1998 4th-round pick. Traded first 4th-round choice (from Ind.) to Ind. for 1998 4th-, 5th- and 6th-round picks. Traded second 4th-round pick (104) to TB for 1999 3rd-round pick. Traded first 7th-round choice (199) to Atl. through Pit. for OL Bernard Dafney.

*** Compensatory Pick**

1999

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	10	CB	Chris McAlister	Arizona
4a	105	WR	Brandon Stokley	SW Louisiana
4b	129	G	Edwin Mulitalo*	Arizona
7	216	S	Anthony Poindexter	Virginia

Traded 2nd-round choice (42) to Atl. for Atl. 2000 1st-round pick. Traded 3rd-round pick (72) to Det. along with cond. 2000 5th-round pick for QB Scott Mitchell. Traded 5th-round choice (145) to STL along with 2000 7th-round pick for QB Tony Banks. Traded first 6th-round choice (180) to NE for TE Lovett Purnell. Traded second 6th-round choice (185, from Ind.) to Min. for OL Everett Lindsay.

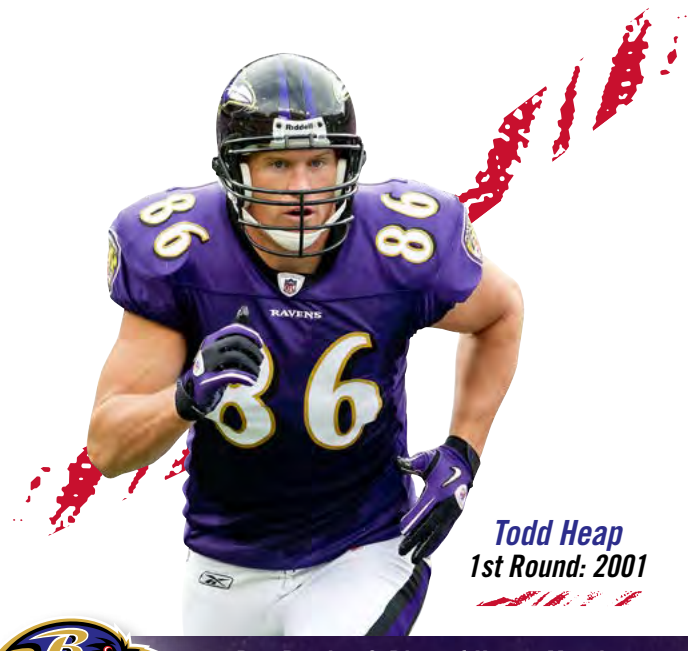
2000

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1a	5	RB	Jamal Lewis	Tennessee
1b	10	WR	Travis Taylor	Florida
3	75	QB	Chris Redman	Louisville
5	148	OL	Richard Mercier	Miami
6a	186	DE	Adalius Thomas	So. Mississippi
6b	191	DT	Cedric Woodard	Texas

Acquired first 1st-round pick (5) from Atl. for a 1999 2nd-round choice.

2001

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	31	TE	Todd Heap	Arizona State
2	62	DB	Gary Baxter	Baylor
3	92	C/G	Casey Rabach	Wisconsin
4	126	LB	Edgerton Hartwell	W. Illinois
5	161	RB	Chris Barnes	New Mexico St.
6	194	LS	Joe Maese	New Mexico
7	231	DE	Dwayne Missouri	Northwestern



Todd Heap
1st Round: 2001

Pro Bowler & Ring of Honor Member

RAVENS ALL-TIME DRAFT CHOICES

2002

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	24	S	Ed Reed	Miami
2	52	DE	Anthony Weaver	Notre Dame
4a	112	P	Dave Zastudil	Ohio
4b	123	WR	Ron Johnson	Minnesota
5	155	TE	Terry Jones	Alabama
6a	195	DB	Lamont Brightful	E. Washington
6b	206	WR	Javin Hunter*	Notre Dame
6c	207	RB	Chester Taylor*	Toledo
6d	209	S	Chad Williams*	So. Mississippi
7	236	QB	Wes Pate	Stephen F. Austin

Traded 3rd-round choice (96) to Den. for 4th- (112) and 5th-round (155) picks (Bal. traded its 5th [159] to Was. to draft Weaver).

2003

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1a	10	LB	Terrell Suggs	Arizona State
1b	19	QB	Kyle Boller	California
3	77	RB	Musa Smith	Georgia
4a	109	LB	Jarret Johnson	Alabama
4b	134	FB	Ovie Mughelli*	Wake Forest
5a	146	DT	Aubrayo Franklin	Tennessee
5b	173	T	Tony Pashos*	Illinois
6	182	S	Gerome Sapp	Notre Dame
7a	223	TE	Trent Smith	Oklahoma
7b	250	C	Mike Mabry*	Central Florida
7c	258	S	Antwoine Sanders*	Utah

Traded 2nd-round choice (41) to NE with 2004 1st-round pick for NE's 1st-round pick (19/Boller).

2004

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
2	51	DT	Dwan Edwards	Oregon State
3	82	WR	Devard Darling	Washington St.
5	153	OLB	Roderick Green	Cen. Missouri St.
6a	187	QB	Josh Harris	Bowling Green
6b	199	WR	Clarence Moore*	N. Arizona
7a	244	WR	Derek Abney*	Kentucky
7b	246	G	Brian Rimpf*	East Carolina

Traded 1st-round pick to NE for Pats' 2003 1st-round selection (19) to draft QB Kyle Boller. Traded 4th-round pick (120) to Jax. for WR Kevin Johnson.

*** Compensatory Pick**

2005

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	22	WR	Mark Clayton	Oklahoma
2a	53	OLB	Dan Cody	Oklahoma
2b	64	T	Adam Terry	Syracuse
4	124	G/C	Jason Brown	North Carolina
5	158	FB	Justin Green	Montana
6	213	QB	Derek Anderson*	Oregon State
7	234	LB	Mike Smith	Texas Tech

Obtained second 2nd-round choice (64) from NE in exchange for Ravens 3rd- (84) and 6th-round (195) picks in 2005 and a 3rd-round selection in 2006.

2006

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	12	DT	Haloti Ngata	Oregon
2	56	C/G	Chris Chester	Oklahoma
3	87	CB	David Pittman	NW State
4a	111	WR	Demetrius Williams	Oregon
4b	132	RB	P.J. Daniels*	Georgia Tech
5a	146	S	Dawan Landry	Georgia Tech
5b	166	TE	Quinn Sypniewski*	Colorado
6a	203	P	Sam Koch*	Nebraska
6b	208	CB	Derrick Martin*	Wyoming
7	219	LB/DE	Ryan LaCasse	Syracuse

Obtained 1st-round choice (12) from Cle. for Baltimore's 1st-round (13) and 6th-round (181) picks. Obtained 2nd-round (56) and 3rd-round (87) choices from the N.Y. Giants for the Ravens' 2nd-round pick (44).

2007

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	29	G	Ben Grubbs	Auburn
3a	74	WR	Yamon Figurs	Kansas State
3b	86	G/T	Marshal Yanda	Iowa
4a	134	OLB	Antwan Barnes*	Florida Intl.
4b	137	FB	Le'Ron McClain*	Alabama
5	174	QB	Troy Smith*	Ohio State
6	207	ILB	Prescott Burgess*	Michigan

Obtained first 3rd-round pick (74) and a 4th-round choice (101) from Det. for the Ravens' 2nd-round (61) pick. Acquired second 3rd-round choice (86) from Jax. for 4th-round (101), 5th-round (166) and 6th-round (203) picks.

2008

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	18	QB	Joe Flacco	Delaware
2	55	RB	Ray Rice	Rutgers
3a	71	ILB	Tavares Gooden	Miami
3b	86	S	Tom Zbikowski	Notre Dame
3c	99	T	Oniel Cousins*	UTEP
4a	106	WR	Marcus Smith	New Mexico
4b	133	G/T	David Hale*	Weber State
6	206	S	Haruki Nakamura*	Cincinnati
7a	215	WR	Justin Harper	Virginia Tech
7b	240	RB	Allen Patrick*	Oklahoma

Obtained 1st-round (18) choice from Houston for the Ravens' 1st-round (26) and 3rd-round (89) picks that Baltimore received from Jacksonville, plus the Ravens' 6th-round (173) choice. Baltimore

RAVENS ALL-TIME DRAFT CHOICES

began the day with the 8th-overall pick and traded it to Jacksonville for the Jaguars' 1st-round (26), both 3rd-round (71 and 89) and 4th-round (125) selections. Obtained 2nd-round (55) choice from Seattle for the Ravens' 2nd-round (38) pick. Acquired second 3rd-round (86) choice, along with 2nd-round pick (Rice, 55) from Seattle for the Ravens' 2nd-round (38) pick. Traded 4th-round (125) choice to Oakland for CB Fabian Washington.

Note: In 2007, the Ravens used a 5th-round pick in the July Supplemental Draft to tab T Jared Gaither.

Joe Flacco
1st Round: 2008

Super Bowl XLVII MVP

2009

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	23	T	Michael Oher	Mississippi
2	57	LB/DE	Paul Kruger	Utah
3	88	DB	Lardarius Webb	Nicholls State
5a	137	LB	Jason Phillips	TCU
5b	149	TE	Davon Drew	East Carolina
6	185	RB	Cedric Peerman	Virginia

Obtained 1st-round choice (23) from NE for the Ravens' 1st-round (26) and 5th-round (162) picks. Acquired two 5th-round choices (137 and 141) from NE for the Ravens' 4th-round (123) pick. Obtained 5th-round (149) and 6th-round (185) choices from Denver for the 5th-round (141) pick.

2010

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
2a	43	LB	Sergio Kindle	Texas
2b	57	DT	Terrence Cody	Alabama
3	70	TE	Ed Dickson	Oregon
4	114	TE	Dennis Pitta	BYU
5a	156	WR	David Reed	Utah
5b	157	DT	Arthur Jones	Syracuse
6	194	T	Ramon Harewood	Morehouse

Acquired first 2nd-round (43), 3rd-round (70) and 4th-round (114) choices from Den. for the Ravens' 1st-round (25) pick. Traded original 3rd-round (88) and 4th-round (123) choices to Ari. for WR Anquan Boldin and a 5th-round pick (157).

2011

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	27	CB	Jimmy Smith	Colorado
2	58	WR	Torrey Smith	Maryland
3	85	T	Jah Reid	Central Florida
4	123	WR	Tandon Doss	Indiana
5a	164	CB	Chykie Brown*	Texas
5b	165	DE	Pernell McPhee*	Mississippi St.
6	180	QB	Tyrod Taylor	Virginia Tech
7	225	RB	Anthony Allen	Georgia Tech

Traded 3rd-round pick (90) and a 6th-round pick (191) to Phi. in exchange for Eagles' 85th selection to acquire Reid.

2012

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
2a	35	OLB	Courtney Upshaw	Alabama
2b	60	G/T	Kelechi Osemele	Iowa State
3	84	RB	Bernard Pierce	Temple
4a	98	G/C	Gino Gradkowski	Delaware
4b	130	S	Christian Thompson*	South Carolina St.
5	169	CB/RS	Asa Jackson*	Cal Poly
6	198	WR	Tommy Streeter	Miami
7	236	DE	DeAngelo Tyson	Georgia

Obtained 2nd-round pick (35) and 4th-round choice (98) in a trade with Min. in exchange for the Ravens' 1st-round (29) selection. Obtained the 84th-overall pick in a trade with Atl. for the Ravens' 3rd-round (91) and 5th-round (164) selections.

2013

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	32	S	Matt Elam	Florida
2	56	LB	Arthur Brown	Kansas State
3	94	DT	Brandon Williams	Missouri Southern St.
4a	129	OLB	John Simon	Ohio State
4b	130	FB	Kyle Juszczyk*	Harvard
5	168	G/T	Rick Wagner*	Wisconsin
6a	200	DE	Kapron Lewis-Moore	Notre Dame
6b	203	C	Ryan Jensen*	Colorado St.-Pueblo
7a	238	WR	Aaron Mellette	Elon
7b	247	CB	Marc Anthony*	California

Obtained 56th pick in a trade with Seattle for the Ravens' 2nd-round pick (62nd), 5th-round choice (165th) and 6th-round selection (199th).

2014

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	17	LB	C.J. Mosley	Alabama
2	48	DT	Timmy Jernigan	Florida State
3a	79	S	Terrence Brooks	Florida State
3b	99	TE	Crockett Gillmore*	Colorado State
4a	134	DE	Brent Urban*	Virginia
4b	138	RB	Lorenzo Taliaferro*	Coastal Carolina
5	175	G/C	John Urschel*	Penn State
6	194	QB	Keith Wenning	Ball State
7	218	WR/RS	Michael Campanaro	Wake Forest

Acquired 218th pick from Cle. in exchange for a 2015 draft choice.

*** Compensatory Pick**

RAVENS ALL-TIME DRAFT CHOICES

2015

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	26	WR	Breshad Perriman	Central Florida
2	55	TE	Maxx Williams	Minnesota
3	90	DT	Carl Davis	Iowa
4a	122	OLB	Za'Darius Smith	Kentucky
4b	125	RB	Javorius "Buck" Allen	Southern Cal
4c	136	CB	Tray Walker*	Texas Southern
5a	171	TE	Nick Boyle*	Delaware
5b	176	G	Robert Myers*	Tennessee State
6	204	WR	Darren Waller	Georgia Tech

Acquired 55th choice from Arizona in exchange for the Ravens' 58th (second round) and 158th (fifth round) picks.

2016

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	6	T	Ronnie Stanley	Notre Dame
2	42	OLB	Kamalei Correa	Boise State
3	70	DE	Bronson Kaufusi	Brigham Young
4a	104	CB	Tavon Young	Temple
4b	107	WR	Chris Moore	Cincinnati
4c	130	G/T	Alex Lewis	Nebraska
4d	132	DT	Willie Henry*	Michigan
4e	134	RB	Kenneth Dixon*	Louisiana Tech
5	146	OLB	Matthew Judon	Grand Valley State
6a	182	WR/RS	Keenan Reynolds	Navy
6b	209	CB	Maurice Canady*	Virginia

Ravens traded the 36th-overall choice to Jacksonville in exchange for the draft's 38th pick and a fifth-round pick (146th overall). Traded the 38th pick to Miami in exchange for the 42nd-overall pick and a fourth-round pick (107th overall).

2017

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	16	CB	Marlon Humphrey	Alabama
2	47	OLB	Tyus Bowser	Houston
3	74	DE	Chris Wormley	Michigan
3	78	OLB	Tim Williams	Alabama
4	122	G	Nico Siragusa	San Diego State
5	159	G/T	Jermaine Eluemunor	Texas A&M
6	186	S	Chuck Clark	Virginia Tech

2018

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1a	25	TE	Hayden Hurst	South Carolina
1b	32	QB	Lamar Jackson	Louisville
3a	83	T	Orlando Brown Jr.	Oklahoma
3b	86	TE	Mark Andrews	Oklahoma
4a	118	CB	Anthony Averett	Alabama
4b	122	LB	Kenny Young	UCLA
4c	132	WR	Jaleel Scott	New Mexico State
5	162	WR	Jordan Lasley	UCLA
6a	190	S	DeShon Elliott	Texas
6b	212	T	Greg Senat	Wagner
6c	215	C	Bradley Bozeman*	Alabama
7	238	DT	Zach Sieler	Ferris State

Ravens traded the 16th-overall pick (first round) and their fifth-round selection (154 overall) to the Bills for the 22nd pick in the first round and 65th-overall pick (third round). Baltimore traded the 22nd-overall selection and the 215th pick (sixth round) to Tennessee in exchange for the 25th-overall selection (used on Hayden Hurst) and the 125th pick (fourth round). Ravens traded picks in the second (52nd) and fourth (118th) rounds, as well as their 2019 second-round pick, to Philadelphia for the No. 32 overall pick (used on Lamar Jackson) and the Eagles' 2018 fourth-rounder (132nd). Ravens traded the 75th-overall pick to Kansas City in exchange for the 86th and 122nd picks. Baltimore traded the 152nd pick to Tennessee for the 162nd and 215th picks. Ravens traded the 65th pick to Oakland in exchange for the 75th-, 152nd- and 212th-overall selections. Traded the 152nd pick to Tennessee for the 162nd- and 215th-overall selections.

2019

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	25	WR	Marquise Brown	Oklahoma
3a	85	OLB	Jaylon Ferguson	Louisiana Tech
3b	93	WR	Miles Boykin	Notre Dame
4a	113	RB	Justice Hill	Oklahoma St.
4b	123	G	Ben Powers	Oklahoma
4c	127	CB	Iman Marshall	Southern Cal
5	160	DT	Daylon Mack	Texas A&M
6	197	QB	Trace McSorley	Penn State

Ravens traded the 22nd-overall pick to Philadelphia in exchange for the 25th, 127th (fourth round) and 197th (sixth round) picks. Traded picks 102 (third round), 191 (sixth round) and 193 (sixth round) to Minnesota in exchange for the 93rd-overall selection.

*** Compensatory Pick**

ALWAYS MORE.
NEVER LESS.

MOCK DRAFTS

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

MEL KIPER JR. – ESPN.com

Last updated: March 24, 2020

1. Cincinnati Bengals

Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

Andy Dalton is still on the Bengals' roster -- there aren't many teams left on the quarterback carousel that make sense as a trade partner -- but this is a no-brainer: Take Burrow and build your team around the Heisman-winning quarterback. Cincinnati already has a WR1 in A.J. Green and RB1 in Joe Mixon, and there are a few solid offensive pieces elsewhere, including the impending debut of 2019 first-round pick Jonah Williams, who missed all of last season with a shoulder injury but can step in immediately and protect Burrow's blind side.

2. Washington Redskins

Chase Young, DE, Ohio State

If Washington is serious about Dwayne Haskins as its unquestioned starter at quarterback, it has to take Young, the clear top pass-rusher in this class and one of the best edge-rushing prospects of the past decade. Ron Rivera already has some talented defenders with whom to work (including Jonathan Allen, Montez Sweat, Landon Collins and free-agent signing Kendall Fuller) and Young could top 10 sacks as a rookie. The big question for the Redskins: Can they get back a decent pick in a Trent Williams trade? He wants out, and they don't have a second-round pick after moving up for Sweat last year.

3. Detroit Lions

Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State

The Lions' best-case scenario with this pick? Field offers for teams trying to trade up to draft Tua Tagovailoa -- the Dolphins (Nos. 5, 18 and 26 picks) and Chargers (No. 6 pick) make the most sense -- and still land Okudah. That would give them extra premium draft picks and the top corner in the class to replace Darius Slay and pair with free-agent signing Desmond Trufant. After a 3-12-1 season, general manager Bob Quinn and coach Matt Patricia need wins now, and the additions of Jamie Collins, Danny Shelton and Nick Williams will help their defense immediately.

4. New York Giants

Isaiah Simmons, OLB, Clemson

This is another spot to watch for a trade. If the Lions stay put and take Okudah, could a team jump in front of the Dolphins to snag Tagovailoa? Because I can't project trades here, I'll mock Simmons to the Giants. He's a phenomenal athlete who ran a 4.39 40-yard dash at 238 pounds and has great film from the past two seasons. He and free-agent addition Blake Martinez would really strengthen the G-Men's linebacker unit. General manager Dave Gettleman has to think about an offensive tackle here, too, with Mekhi Becton, Tristan Wirfs or Jedrick Wills Jr. as possibilities.

5. Miami Dolphins

Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama

The Dolphins have three first-round picks and two second-round picks, but their best-case scenario is to stay put, get their quarterback of the future and pick up starters on Day 1 and Day 2 of the draft. With the offseason quarterback carousel mostly completed -- Jameis Winston, Andy Dalton and Cam Newton still need to find new teams -- Miami is in the best spot to draft its guy. Tagovailoa, who's rehabbing after dislocating his right hip and suffering a posterior wall fracture in November, was planning to throw for NFL teams on April 9, but that's up in the air. There's a chance teams won't get to see him go through a full workout; they'll have to trust his tape -- and trust their medical staffs, who will have a clear view of where Tagovailoa is with his injury now.

6. Los Angeles Chargers

Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

The Chargers appear uninterested in the quarterbacks in the free-agent or trade market, with Tyrod Taylor slotted in as their Week 1 starter. But maybe they're not interested in another veteran because they know they're in a good position to draft Tagovailoa or Herbert, and they can give Taylor the job while grooming a quarterback of the future. Based on their offseason additions (guard Trai Turner, offensive tackle Bryan Bulaga, defensive tackle Linval Joseph and cornerback Chris Harris Jr., among others), the Chargers think they can win now. Drafting the 6-foot-6 Herbert gives them the best chance to bridge their present with their future, similar to what the Chiefs did in 2017 when they drafted Patrick Mahomes.

7. Carolina Panthers

Derrick Brown, DT, Auburn

This makes three mock drafts, three projections of Brown to Carolina. And I don't see a reason to go away from it (unless Isaiah Simmons falls here). With Gerald McCoy and Vernon Butler gone in free agency, there's a gaping hole at the tackle spot next to Kawann Short. Brown isn't going to be a 10-sack-per-season guy, but he has some pass-rush upside from the interior. And with a 6-foot-4, 326-pound frame, he'll be a monster against the run.

8. Arizona Cardinals

Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa

With DeAndre Hopkins on his way to Arizona, the Cardinals filled their need for a new No. 1 wide receiver. One spot they haven't addressed? Right tackle, where they could upgrade on former undrafted free agent Justin Murray, who started 12 games last season. This team could have its pick of a deep top tier of tackles, but I like the fit with Wirfs, who was predominantly a right tackle in college. He's a load in the run game and has great feet in pass protection. Arizona must protect quarterback Kyler Murray, who was sacked 48 times last season, tied for most in the league.

9. Jacksonville Jaguars

Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina

Marcell Dareus and Calais Campbell are gone, while 2018 first-round pick Taven Bryan has disappointed, which means the Jaguars' once-excellent defensive line needs reinforcements. They have tremendous edge rushers in Yannick Ngakoue and Josh Allen, but Kinlaw would give them a 324-pound run-stuffer with some upside as an interior pass-rusher. I considered a quarterback here, but it appears Jacksonville is committed to Gardner Minshew. Cornerback is an option, too, though Jacksonville could use the No. 20 pick to address the secondary.

10. Cleveland Browns

Mekhi Becton, OT, Louisville

I really liked Cleveland paying up in free agency for Jack Conklin, who will upgrade the right tackle spot. But this team could still use a new starter at left tackle, which is why I like Becton here. A mountain of a man at 6-foot-7, 364 pounds, Becton also has excellent feet and agility -- he is the heaviest player to run a sub-5.2 40-yard dash at the combine since 2006. Chris Hubbard, signed in 2018 to replace Joe Thomas, hasn't worked out; it's time to get Baker Mayfield better protection.

11. New York Jets

Jedrick Wills Jr., OT, Alabama

The Jets made an effort to fix their porous offensive line in free agency, bringing back guard Alex Lewis and adding tackle George Fant and interior linemen Connor McGovern, Greg Van Roten and Josh Andrews. But that's not enough. They need another infusion of talent, particularly at right tackle, where Chuma Edoga played last season. Wills was a two-year starter at right tackle for the Crimson Tide, and he could step in on day one and be New York's most talented lineman. Wide receiver is a position to watch here, with Robby Anderson signing in Carolina. I also thought about pass-rusher, but this is a little too high for second-ranked edge rusher K'Lavon Chaisson.

12. Las Vegas Raiders

CJ Henderson, CB, Florida

After the Raiders signed both Cory Littleton and Nick Kwiatkowski in free agency, you can scratch off-ball linebacker from their list of needs. That still leaves wide receiver and cornerback, though. And since Las Vegas has two first-round picks and this class of receivers is much deeper at the top than the cornerback group, let's give Jon Gruden & Co. a potential No. 1 corner in Henderson here. He had an up-and-down 2019 season, but he cemented his standing as the second-ranked cornerback in this class at the combine, where he ran a 4.39 40. The Raiders get to grab a receiver at No. 19. Could Vegas be an option if one of the other quarterbacks -- Justin Herbert or Jordan Love -- make it here?

13. San Francisco 49ers (from IND)

Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama

This pick now belongs to the 49ers, after the Colts traded it to acquire interior disruptor DeForest Buckner. San Francisco could use the pick for a straight replacement for Buckner at defensive tackle -- if Javon Kinlaw drops out of the top 10, he could do damage in the middle of its defense -- but I see wide receiver as a higher priority, particularly after Emmanuel Sanders walked in free agency. Adding Jeudy, who caught 77 passes for 1,163 yards and 10 TDs last season, to a group with Deebo Samuel and Kendrick Bourne makes this a really exciting (and young) trio of wideouts for Jimmy Garoppolo. The 49ers are also trade-down candidates -- after the No. 31 overall pick, they don't pick again until Round 5.

14. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia

After the Bucs largely bypassed free agency to address their offensive line -- they did add swing tackle Joe Haeg -- this is the spot in which they need to get help protecting Tom Brady. (It felt strange to type that.) With Demar Dotson still a free agent, the right tackle spot is wide open. Thomas played both left and right tackle for the Bulldogs, and he would help keep Brady's jersey clean. I also thought about a running back to help Brady, with D'Andre Swift a great option to catch a bunch of passes from the future Hall of Famer. But offensive tackle feels like a lock at this point.

15. Denver Broncos

Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama

The Broncos have made a few solid additions this offseason, signing guard Graham Glasgow and running back Melvin Gordon and trading for defensive tackle Jurrell Casey and cornerback A.J. Bouye. They haven't addressed left tackle -- former first-round pick Garett Bolles could be on his way out after a disappointing tenure -- or wide receiver, where they have Courtland Sutton but not much else. Ruggs, who ran a 4.27 40 at the combine, would be a great complement to Sutton's size, as he could run crossers and catch deep balls from second-year signal-caller Drew Lock.

16. Atlanta Falcons

K'Lavon Chaisson, OLB, LSU

The Falcons replaced Vic Beasley Jr. with Dante Fowler Jr. in free agency, but they shouldn't stop there. General manager Thomas Dimitroff needs to add another premium pass-rusher, either at edge or along the interior. Takkarist McKinley, a first-round pick in 2017, just hasn't developed. After fighting through injuries, Chaisson had just 9.5 sacks in his college career, but he has a high ceiling, flashing elite get-off at the snap with a few pass-rushing moves in his arsenal. Before Atlanta picked up Todd Gurley to replace Devonta Freeman, I thought this might be a spot to watch for a running back.

17. Dallas Cowboys

CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma

The Cowboys don't have many glaring needs, although I wouldn't be surprised to see them draft a cornerback or safety (Ha-Ha Clinton-Dix appears to be a one-year flier). I'm going to stick to my board, though, and go with the best prospect available. Lamb, No. 12 in my latest rankings, shouldn't fall far; with fantastic route-running ability and big-play potential, he's capable of being a No. 1 receiver at the next level, and he could play outside or in the slot. Amari Cooper, Michael Gallup and Lamb would instantly become one of the NFL's top wide receiver trios. Keep an eye on defensive end here, though, as Dallas could add young talent to that group.

18. Miami Dolphins (from PIT)

D'Andre Swift, RB, Georgia

The Dolphins entered free agency with the NFL's most cap space, and they used a bunch of their money on defense, signing cornerback Byron Jones to a record-breaking deal while also adding linebackers Kyle Van Noy, Shaq Lawson and Elandon Roberts and edge rusher Emmanuel Ogbah. And yes, they brought in veteran running back Jordan Howard, too, but it was a low-cost deal. Let's give Tagovailoa and the offense some help with Swift, a threat as a runner and receiver and the clear top back in this class. I expect Miami to address offensive tackle with one of its three first-round picks, and that could come at No. 26.

19. Las Vegas Raiders (from CHI)

Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson

If the Raiders take a cornerback at No. 12, they have to address receiver here. They can't go into the season with Tyrell Williams, Hunter Renfrow and Nelson Agholor as Derek Carr's top wideouts. So how about Renfrow's college teammate, Higgins, a 6-foot-3 pass-catcher with elite ball skills. Higgins isn't a speedster -- he didn't work out at the combine, but he ran a 4.54 40 at his pro day -- but he could be an instant red zone threat for Carr.

20. Jacksonville Jaguars (from LAR)

Antoine Winfield Jr., S/CB, Minnesota

Where could Winfield play? How about ... everywhere. He has the versatility to play deep safety, nickel corner, strong safety and even some linebacker. At 5-foot-9, 203 pounds, he's not the biggest guy, but you couldn't tell from his tackling on tape -- he's not afraid to hit a ball carrier. Winfield stayed healthy in 2019 and had seven interceptions. He's a ballhawk, which is something Jacksonville could use after it traded Jalen Ramsey last year. I really like Winfield, and this is a great landing spot for the best defensive back left on my board.

21. Philadelphia Eagles

Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU

Philadelphia addressed its hole at cornerback by trading for Darius Slay. The next hole that needs to be filled is at wide receiver, where Alshon Jeffery and DeSean Jackson had injury-plagued 2019 seasons and rookie second-round pick J.J. Arcega-Whiteside struggled. That resulted in a tough year for Carson Wentz and the Eagles' offense, although they still went 9-7 and won the NFC East. Since this is a deep class of wide receivers, the Eagles should come out of the first round with their guy. Jefferson, who caught 111 passes from Joe Burrow last season, is a great fit.

22. Minnesota Vikings (from BUF)

Denzel Mims, WR, Baylor

Yes, this is another team that has a need at wide receiver, and this is the draft to get one. Minnesota got this pick by trading Stefon Diggs last week, and the Vikings could use it to find a direct replacement. Adam Thielen is the clear WR1, but there's not much else on the roster that should excite Vikings fans. Mims is one of the biggest risers from the pre-draft process, as he was tremendous at the Senior Bowl and then blew up at the combine, running a 4.38 40 at 6-foot-3, 207 pounds and testing well in the other workouts. He had 28 touchdowns over the past three seasons at Baylor.

23. New England Patriots

Jordan Love, QB, Utah State

Are the Patriots really going to roll with Jarrett Stidham, Brian Hoyer and Cody Kessler as their 2020 quarterbacks? I'm not buying it. I'll stick with a QB here, although I'm moving Love back into the fourth spot in my QB rankings, ahead of Jacob Eason. At 6-foot-4, Love has all the traits that teams look for in a starter, but his 2019 stats -- 20 TD passses, 17 INTs -- will scare off some. I don't put much stock in it because of all of the talent (and an entire coaching staff) that he lost from the 2018 season, when he had 32 TD passes and six INTs. It's tough to know whether Bill Belichick is going to treat the season as a rebuild, but taking Love makes sense either way.

24. New Orleans Saints

Kenneth Murray, LB, Oklahoma

The Saints perpetually have salary-cap issues, but they have done a nice job filling holes this offseason, adding safety Malcolm Jenkins and wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders while bringing back guard Andrus Peat and defensive tackle David Onyemata. This is a roster that should compete for a Super Bowl in 2020. Off-ball linebacker, though, is a position where New Orleans could get some help, and neither of my top inside linebackers have come off the board yet. Murray, a stellar athlete and tackling machine, is a good value pick here.

25. Minnesota Vikings

A.J. Epenesa, DE, Iowa

This has to be corner or defensive end, right? Free agent Everson Griffen has already said his goodbyes to Vikings fans, while Trae Waynes, Mackensie Alexander and Xavier Rhodes all departed this offseason. We know Mike Zimmer is always thinking about his defense, and that unit could use some help with one of Minnesota's first-round picks. Epenesa could be a capable replacement for Griffen as a defensive end with a big frame (6-foot-5, 275 pounds) who is good against the run and has room to grow as a pass-rusher.

26. Miami Dolphins (from HOU)

Josh Jones, OT, Houston

So we've given the Dolphins a quarterback and running back so far, and let's stay on offense and address the tackle position, where Miami is still depleted. With Jones on the board, this is a no-brainer for me. He made 45 career starts at left tackle for the Cougars, and he dominated during practices at the Senior Bowl. Remember that the Dolphins still have two more second-round picks to help them get back on track. And after boosting their defense in free agency, the Dolphins are trending in the right direction.

27. Seattle Seahawks

Yetur Gross-Matos, DE, Penn State

This is a tough one for me because the Seahawks are still in the hunt to re-sign Jadeveon Clowney. If they spend a bunch of money to bring Clowney back, they might not want to spend the capital on an edge rusher here, particularly after drafting L.J. Collier in Round 1 last year. Still, the 6-foot-6, 266-pound Gross-Matos makes a lot of sense, because we know that Pete Carroll likes big defensive ends who could move inside and rush the passer on passing downs. Offensive tackle should be an option here, and Seattle also has an extra second-round pick.

28. Baltimore Ravens

Patrick Queen, ILB, LSU

The Ravens didn't really address the inside linebacker position in free agency, which means I don't see a reason to change from my first two mock drafts. Queen fills a direct void as a replacement for C.J. Mosley, who Baltimore lost in free agency a year ago. I also considered center/guard Cesar Ruiz, who could take over for the retired Marshal Yanda at guard.

29. Tennessee Titans

Ezra Cleveland, OT, Boise State

After Cleveland's excellent combine performance in which he ran a 4.93 40 (third-fastest among offensive linemen) and looked great in the agility drills, I went back to the tape to study him. And what I saw was a left tackle who I was underrating. A three-year starter for the Broncos, Cleveland isn't just a workout wonder -- he was a great tackle in the Mountain West. The Titans are set at left tackle with Taylor Lewan, of course, but with right tackle Jack Conklin departing in free agency, Cleveland could compete with former swing tackle Dennis Kelly, who was re-signed. Tennessee added Vic Beasley Jr. last week, but I wouldn't be shocked to see them add another edge rusher here.

30. Green Bay Packers

Chase Claypool, WR, Notre Dame

Green Bay cut Jimmy Graham and hasn't added any receiving help this offseason, so I'm sticking with a wide receiver for its pick, though it's the third different wideout in my three mock drafts. Like Denzel Mims, Claypool had an electrifying combine, running a 4.42 40 and putting up a 40.5-inch vertical at 6-foot-4, 238 pounds. This might be a slight reach, but a team could fall in love with his traits, and he produced last season, catching 66 passes for 1,037 yards and 13 touchdowns. He could be a matchup nightmare for Aaron Rodgers.

31. San Francisco 49ers

Noah Igbinoghene, CB, Auburn

Bradbury had a fantastic week at the Senior Bowl in January, and he followed it up with a strong combine workout, which has him on the fringes of Round 1. With the Rams moving on from John Sullivan this offseason, this is a straight like-for-like replacement, as Bradbury (6-foot-3, 306 pounds) could step in and start on Day 1. Cornerback is another position to watch for L.A., with the futures of Marcus Peters and Aqib Talib uncertain.

32. Kansas City Chiefs

Cesar Ruiz, C/G, Michigan

The Super Bowl champs haven't made many moves this offseason, but their positions of need are clear: cornerback and interior offensive line. Kendall Fuller signed a big deal in Washington, and Bashaud Breeland is still on the market, leaving big shoes to fill. But with Noah Igbinoghene gone to San Francisco one pick earlier, I don't have a corner with a first-round grade on my board. So let's give the Chiefs Ruiz, who could slide to guard to replace Stefen Wisniewski.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

TODD McSHAY – ESPN.com

Last updated: March 30, 2020

1. Cincinnati Bengals

Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

No surprise here. Burrow has incredible accuracy, maneuvers in the pocket with skill and battles all game long. The Bengals need a franchise quarterback to truly fire up their rebuild, and Burrow has all the makings of a future star in the NFL.

2. Washington Redskins

Chase Young, DE, Ohio State

I expect Washington to at least listen to some trade offers. But at the end of the day, it'd be really tough for the Redskins to pass on the most talented player in the draft class and one of the best pass-rushing prospects I've ever seen. Young posted a nation-leading 16.5 sacks, and he missed two games.

3. Detroit Lions

Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State

A glaring need became blinding when the Lions traded Darius Slay to the Eagles (though Detroit did sign Desmond Trufant). Okudah would bring ball skills, size and versatility to a defense that was exploited last season to the tune of 284.4 passing yards allowed per game. His athleticism is elite, and I'd expect him to excel in man coverage at the next level.

4. New York Giants

Isaiah Simmons, OLB, Clemson

New York has three options in my mind here at No. 4: The Giants can trade out of it, they can look at one of the excellent offensive tackles on the board or they can draft Simmons as a do-it-all linebacker. General manager Dave Gettleman will hear some interesting offers, but because I'm not doing the same with this mock, I'm going with Simmons. Remember, the Giants allowed 28.2 points per game last season, third worst in the NFL.

5. Miami Dolphins

Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama

I'm sticking with Tagovailoa here, but where he goes really comes down to the medical evaluation and how comfortable Miami -- or any other team -- is with it. When he is healthy, he's special. In a best-case scenario, the Dolphins get their franchise quarterback without having to move up and then build out the rest of their roster with a boatload of picks. But that added layer of risk with Tagovailoa and all that draft capital also could lead to some creativity and maybe a trade up to get Burrow, if Cincinnati happens to be open to it.

6. Los Angeles Chargers

Jordan Love, QB, Utah State

Yes, this is a bit of a reach, but the Chargers struck out in the Tom Brady sweepstakes, and they are looking for long-term answers under center. (They can live in the short term with Tyrod Taylor.) Could free agents Cam Newton or Jameis Winston be in play? Maybe. I'm told Los Angeles likes all four of the top quarterbacks in the draft class -- and this pick could end up being Oregon's Justin Herbert, too -- but Love has the arm to make NFL-caliber throws and should be available here at No. 6.

7. Carolina Panthers

Derrick Brown, DT, Auburn

Not only is Brown the best player on the board, he also fills a real hole in this Panthers front seven. Carolina lost Gerald McCoy, Mario Addison and Vernon Butler to free agency, and it was fourth worst in the NFL in rushing defense in 2019. Defensive coordinator Phil Snow would love Brown's versatility and ability to disrupt from the inside in that Tampa 2-based scheme.

8. Arizona Cardinals

Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa

Wide receiver had long been discussed here, but the addition of DeAndre Hopkins makes protecting quarterback Kyler Murray the key priority for this pick. The Cardinals just can't allow Murray to be sacked as much as he was last season (50), and Wirfs is an extremely athletic big man with great potential.

9. Jacksonville Jaguars

Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

The Jags could go a couple of directions in this spot, and I originally was thinking wide receiver. And while I really wouldn't be surprised to see them take a different route, I just don't see how the Jaguars could go into the 2020 season with Gardner Minshew II -- who I do like! -- as their only option at quarterback. Especially with all their picks. Draft Herbert and let the big-armed mobile QB compete with Minshew in camp, address other needs later in the draft and go from there.

10. Cleveland Browns

Jedrick Wills Jr., OT, Alabama

The Browns brought in Jack Conklin in free agency, but they still need a left tackle opposite the former Titan. Wills played the right side at Alabama, but he is versatile enough to make the transition and continue Cleveland's process in getting Baker Mayfield more protection. Louisville's Mekhi Becton is another tackle to watch here.

11. New York Jets

Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama

Becton also would make sense here, as that offensive line still needs work, but Jeudy is the class' best route runner and top wideout available. How can the Jets, who would be entering the season with Jamison Crowder and Breshad Perriman as their top two wide receivers, pass on this type of playmaker? The Jets were one of four NFL teams to average fewer than 200 passing yards and score fewer than 20 passing touchdowns last season, and that was with Robby Anderson still in green.

12. Las Vegas Raiders

CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma

The Raiders were pretty active on the defensive side of the ball in free agency, so we're looking at offense here. Lamb is incredible after the catch and could be Vegas' No. 1 receiver. Tyrell Williams isn't the answer, and with both Lamb and Alabama burner Henry Ruggs III still on the board, the Raiders have to get quarterback Derek Carr a weapon.

13. San Francisco 49ers (from IND)

Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama

The 49ers dealt DeForest Buckner to land this pick, and they could immediately replace him with South Carolina's Javon Kinlaw. But San Francisco is searching for a wide receiver, a concern that grew more pressing when Emmanuel Sanders signed in New Orleans. Coach Kyle Shanahan likes speedy guys who can tack on yards after the catch, and that's what Ruggs does. Suddenly, that arsenal doesn't look too bad with the likes of Deebo Samuel and George Kittle also running routes for Jimmy Garoppolo.

14. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Mekhi Becton, OT, Louisville

I had Georgia running back D'Andre Swift going to Tampa Bay in my last mock, and it's still a possibility. But after going all-in on Tom Brady, the Bucs really need to focus on protecting him. And right tackle is a priority with Demar Dotson not likely to return. The 6-foot-7, 364-pound Becton carries his frame incredibly well and would help reduce Tampa Bay's 2019 tally of 47 sacks allowed.

15. Denver Broncos

Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia

Wide receiver depth remains a problem behind Courtland Sutton, but the offensive line also deserves a little attention. Thomas has room to improve some of his technique, but he has the tools to be a starting offensive tackle. Selecting him would go a long way toward building around Drew Lock, the Broncos' QB of the future.

16. Atlanta Falcons

Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina

The Falcons will be looking all over on defense; they need replenishments at cornerback, linebacker and edge rushing. But this is pure value. Kinlaw is a physical freak who can rush inside or outside and create havoc beside Grady Jarrett. Taking a player this talented at this spot in the draft is just good business.

17. Dallas Cowboys

CJ Henderson, CB, Florida

Byron Jones is officially headed elsewhere, and that Dallas secondary managed just seven interceptions in 2019 (tied with Arizona and Detroit for fewest in the NFL). Enter Henderson, who is an athletic playmaker in coverage with smooth, 4.39 speed.

18. Miami Dolphins (from PIT)

Xavier McKinney, S, Alabama

The Dolphins opened their checkbook in free agency on defense, but safety wasn't part of the spending spree. McKinney's versatility, instincts and burst would be great over the top behind Byron Jones and Xavien Howard.

19. Las Vegas Raiders (from CHI)

Antoine Winfield Jr., S, Minnesota

Earlier in Round 1, we slotted Vegas with a top-tier wide receiver to help the offensive passing game. Now, we're diving in on a defensive passing game that is in need of a punch. Corner is definitely a bigger issue than safety, but Winfield has tremendous versatility. He is undersized, but he is a hard-hitting tackler with ball skills. Coach Jon Gruden would love bringing in this kid.

20. Jacksonville Jaguars (from LAR)

Brandon Aiyuk, WR, Arizona State

DJ Chark Jr. had a huge season in 2019, and Dede Westbrook is more than capable, but the Jags could use a wideout like Aiyuk. He tracks the ball vertically very well, has the wheels to get open, displays the hands to pluck on the run and shows lots of ability to create once the ball is in his hands. Herbert's arm strength and Aiyuk's vertical talent would be fun to watch.

21. Philadelphia Eagles

Patrick Queen, ILB, LSU

The void at wide receiver hasn't gone away, and the Eagles will have to think long and hard about whether they are ready to enter the 2020 season with the oft-injured Alshon Jeffery and DeSean Jackson, along with J.J. Arcega-Whiteside off a disappointing rookie campaign, as their wideouts again. Justin Jefferson out of LSU is for sure in play at No. 21. But Philadelphia also could really use a spark in the middle of the defense. Queen is a rangy, off-ball linebacker with burst and great tackling ability.

22. Minnesota Vikings (from BUF)

Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU

The Vikings are in the hunt for receivers and cornerbacks. And with two first-round picks -- spoiler ahead -- we're going to get them one of each. Jefferson is my best available player at this point in the mock, and he knows how to generate separation and find holes in the defense.

23. New England Patriots

A.J. Epenesa, DE, Iowa

These aren't the Patriots we are accustomed to seeing. They could use upgrades in a bunch of areas, including quarterback, wide receiver and a handful of spots on defense. I don't expect coach Bill Belichick to reach for a QB here, and while wide receiver is in play, it seems unlikely two years in a row on Day 1. So how about an edge rusher? LSU's K'Lavon Chaisson is the better player, but Belichick has a strong relationship with Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz, and Epenesa fits nicely with the Patriots' 3-4 system as a 5-technique.

24. New Orleans Saints

Kenneth Murray, LB, Oklahoma

Murray plays fast and could be the future quarterback of the New Orleans defense. He is one of the best available prospects on the board, and the Saints would jump at a chance to plop the rangy Murray in the middle of the field.

25. Minnesota Vikings

Trevon Diggs, CB, Alabama

The Vikings replaced Stefon Diggs at wide receiver with one of their first-round picks, and now they're drafting his brother with the other. Minnesota loves taking corners on Day 1, especially longer guys with speed and ball skills. A.J. Terrell out of Clemson fits the bill, too, but Diggs is the better talent. A former wideout like his brother, Diggs will go up and make plays on the ball.

26. Miami Dolphins (from HOU)

Josh Jones, OT, Houston

If you are drafting a quarterback with the injury history of Tagovailoa, and your offensive line tied for the league's high mark in sacks allowed last season (58), you better direct some attention toward protection. Tackle, in particular, is a big hole. Jones has versatility, shows an ability to drive defenders off the ball and flashes as a nasty finisher.

27. Seattle Seahawks

K'Lavon Chaisson, DE, LSU

Value, value, value. In my eyes, Chaisson is the second-best edge rusher in the draft class behind Young, and he really popped at the end of the 2019 season, so getting him here is a terrific return. With Jadeveon Clowney's future still up in the air, Seattle's edge is a dearth of playmakers. In fact, the Seahawks only got home on the quarterback 28 times last season, tied for No. 29 in the NFL, with Clowney. Chaisson has good bend and burst off the edge.

28. Baltimore Ravens

Ross Blacklock, DT, TCU

We've all been handing either Queen or Murray to Baltimore in this spot, and if either were available, one would still be the pick. But with no inside linebackers on the board within range, I'm instead turning my attention to the defensive front. Trading for Calais Campbell and bringing Matthew Judon back on the franchise tag do wonders for the edge rush, and new signee Derek Wolfe helps the interior a bit, but Blacklock's quick hands and burst fit what the Ravens want up the middle.

29. Tennessee Titans

Yetur Gross-Matos, DE, Penn State

Vic Beasley Jr. still has upside -- he does have a 15.5-sack season -- but regardless, the Titans will be seeking edge rushing in the draft. Gross-Matos is the top pass-rusher still on the board, and while he might need time to develop, he possesses above-average pass-rush talent, the ability to set the edge against the run and the speed to chase players down in pursuit.

30. Green Bay Packers

Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson

Green Bay cut Jimmy Graham and hasn't added any receiving help this offseason, so I'm sticking with a wide receiver for its pick, though it's the third different wideout in my three mock drafts. Like Denzel Mims, Claypool had an electrifying combine, running a 4.42 40 and putting up a 40.5-inch vertical at 6-foot-4, 238 pounds. This might be a slight reach, but a team could fall in love with his traits, and he produced last season, catching 66 passes for 1,037 yards and 13 touchdowns. He could be a matchup nightmare for Aaron Rodgers.

31. San Francisco 49ers

A.J. Terrell, CB, Clemson

Ruggs at No. 13 took care of the wide receiver void, and while someone like Texas A&M's Justin Madubuike could be fun in the middle of the defensive front as a replacement for DeForest Buckner, cornerback is the larger issue at hand. LSU's Kristian Fulton and Ohio State's Damon Arnette shouldn't be ruled out, but Terrell is long and plays fast -- as he ran a 4.42 at the combine. He has the talent to be a difference-maker opposite Richard Sherman.

32. Kansas City Chiefs

D'Andre Swift, RB, Georgia

Swift is the No. 13 prospect on my board, but there just weren't many spots in Round 1 to slot him, so the Chiefs are able to add him all the way back at No. 32. While the defensive back woes for the Super Bowl champions are overwhelming -- I pondered LSU's Grant Delpit or one of the corners still out there -- this pick becomes too easy. Damien Williams was effective in 2019, but he is due to be a free agent next spring, and the explosive Swift paired with Patrick Mahomes, Tyreek Hill, Mecole Hardman and Travis Kelce is terrifying for opponents.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

PETER KING – NBC SPORTS/PRO FOOTBALL TALK

Last updated: April 20, 2020

1. Cincinnati Bengals

Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

As Burrow whiled away the hours at home last week in southeast Ohio—throwing some to a couple of Athens tight-end buddies, watching “The Office” and playing video games—there didn’t seem to be much mystery about his fate. Coach Zac Taylor told Dan Patrick last week “it doesn’t look” like the Bengals will trade the pick. So look for Burrow to land with the home-state team.

Now the question: Will he be ready to play opening day, whenever that is? Well, the last time Burrow was in this situation, he transferred to LSU in the summer of 2018, reported to summer practice Aug. 4, and started the LSU opener four weeks later. He played all 28 LSU games in ’18 and ’19, and won the Heisman and the national title last season. So he’ll learn the Cincinnati offense virtually this spring—I wouldn’t be surprised if he’s started already—and may not even meet top targets A.J. Green and Tyler Boyd till August. Of course it’s not the best for Burrow or the Bengals. But Burrow spent the last year blowing away Louisiana, the SEC, the nation. Nothing much seems to bother him. My money’s on him starting from the jump in Cincinnati.

2. Washington Redskins

Chase Young, Edge Rusher, Ohio State

So after the national anthem and some (my best guess) canned booing of home-bound Roger Goodell live from his basement in New York, expect 20 minutes of zero drama. As much as Washington tried to create a market for the second pick in the draft, Tua Tagovailoa’s hip and the signing of Kyle Allen ruined that. Washington shan’t overthink. Building the NFC’s best pass-rush east of Santa Clara (Young, Montez Sweat and maybe vet Ryan Kerrigan) is the way to go for a team that needs to win back a royally ticked-off fan base.

3. Miami Dolphins (projected trade with Detroit)

Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

It’s funny. Whether Miami makes the trade or not, I think Miami and Detroit will make the same picks. I do think, for the peace of mind and to prevent anyone from leapfrogging them, the Dolphins would be smart to deal the 39th overall pick to Detroit to move up two slots here. Anyway, I don’t know if Herbert’s going to be Miami’s pick. My pick is based on Miami choosing to go conservative here instead of trying to hit a triple in the gap by picking Tua Tagovailoa. Because the Dolphins have done a good job hiding their intentions, I won’t be shocked either way—if they go the risky way with Tua, or if they repeat 2006 and make the safe call with Herbert. Daunte Culpepper, 2006; Herbert, 2020. And they’ll hope it’s a better result this time. My theory is that Tagovailoa would have been the pick had he not dislocated his hip last November. But if it is Herbert, he’ll get to sit behind a pro’s pro, Ryan Fitzpatrick, for a year or most of a year, and be in position to take over in a more normal 2021 season.

4. New York Giants

Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa

I would bet there are 25 different rankings of the top five tackles on the 32 NFL draft boards—Wirfs, Jedrick Wills of Alabama, Mekhi Becton of Louisville, Andrew Thomas of Georgia, Josh Jones of Houston. The Giants, by the way, would trade down for a good offer; Dave Gettleman has said no to draft trades for so long, but this year those in the top 10 tell me he'd definitely do it. I don't think there's a great demand to move up. The Giants need a lot of help on defense, and you probably could defend an Isaiah Simmons pick here. But these are Gettleman's own words from Friday: "You know my theory. It's very, very difficult for Saquon [Barkley] to run the ball if he doesn't have holes. It's going to be difficult for Daniel [Jones] to throw the ball when he's on his back. We'll continue to build the offense line." Cam Fleming is the band aid right tackle for New York, but he's more likely a swing tackle and insurance policy, with 26 starts in six years. Wirfs or Jerrick Wills of Alabama would likely play right away at right tackle for New York.

5. Detroit Lions (projected trade with Miami)

Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State

Not sure of the return for Detroit, but let's say Lions GM Bob Quinn deals the third overall pick for the fifth and 39th. Most Lions' fans will scream and say, "Quinn should have gotten one of the other Miami first-rounders, either at 18 or 26." I'm going to ask you this, Lions fans: If I told you before the draft that you could exit the weekend with CB1 on your first pick (Okudah), RB3 (Wisconsin's Jonathan Taylor) on the second and G1 (Louisiana's Robert Hunt) on the third, would you be doing cartwheels about that? Acquiring the 39th overall pick while still ensuring you'd get the corner you want would likely allow that.

One last thing: In the first draft in Carolina Panthers history, GM Bill Polian traded down with Cincinnati from one to five in the first round and acquired the 36th pick (only) in return. Polian didn't have another trade option, and he didn't want to pay the player he really wanted, quarterback Kerry Collins, first-pick money. So he picked the player he'd have taken at one, Collins, fifth, and had a bonus second-round pick. The point is, sometimes you take a deal even if it's not the one the trade chart says you should make, because you're going to improve your team by doing it.

6. Los Angeles Chargers

Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia

For four days, until 4 p.m. Sunday, I had Tua Tagovailoa in this spot. I truly don't know if GM Tom Telesco loves the well-scarred Tagovailoa enough to take him. He might, and it would make sense. The Chargers are in a megastar market, and they do not have one on the roster, and Tua would immediately become the billboard on the 405 owner Dean Spanos would love.

But I made the switch for a couple of reasons. Anthony Lynn doesn't view—at least now—Tyrod Taylor as a bridge quarterback. He thinks he can be a good NFL starter. And with the business side of football so up in the air in 2020 because of the pandemic, I think it's more important to build the best football team rather than have the best marketing plan. The Chargers have 31-year-old Bryan Bulaga—who has missed 13 games in the last three years—at one of the tackles, and no other solid guy on the roster. I hear the Chargers are planning to use Bulaga at right tackle. So they're absolutely denuded on the left side of the line, and here's the first-team all-American left tackle from the SEC sitting there for them. A Telesco team to be so bereft of building blocks at tackle is not good. And the Chargers have loved Thomas, a legit two-year left tackle at Georgia against the highest level of competition in the college game, throughout the fall and winter.

If it goes this way, this is the kind of decision that defines careers—Telesco and Thomas . . . and even Tua.

7. Carolina Panthers

Derrick Brown, DT, Auburn

Man. Would the Panthers pass on Tua? I'm saying yes, because they'd have to take a $20-million cap hit to dump Teddy Bridgewater next offseason . . . and they really like Bridgewater. Plus, the Panthers have a slew of major needs on defense. They could take C.J. Henderson here and be happy because of a desperate corner need. But this team is dying on the interior defensive line, and all you have to do is watch a few Derrick Brown plays to know what a crucial addition he'd be. There's one play where he man-against-boys an LSU guard and Joe Burrow is so flustered by the specter of Brown that he falls down before Brown makes it to him in the backfield.

So a few people in the league would say they're a little down on Brown because of a so-so combine performance. But I don't see that stopping a smart team in the top 10 from making him a defensive centerpiece for six or eight years. Panthers also love Isaiah Simmons.

8. Arizona Cardinals

Isaiah Simmons, Defensive Player, Clemson

This is a first in Peter King Mock Draft History. I've never before labeled a player "defensive player." Simmons has played strong safety, cornerback, slot corner, inside linebacker and outside linebacker, and he's likely going to be a hybrid safety/linebacker/edge player in the NFL. Could be an instinctive pass-rusher too, which the Cardinals lack in a big way; he had 23 pressures on 70 pass-rushes. Now, the Cards have other needs, and Simmons doesn't have a singular position. But he was a great and instinctive college player.

I believe GM Steve Keim just might look at this pick and remember the 2007 draft. Keim, the director of college scouting in Arizona at the time, reportedly wanted Adrian Peterson when the Cards picked at number five in the first round. But the Arizona pick ended up being a tackle, Levi Brown, and Peterson came off the board two slots later, to Minnesota. Brown was an abject disaster with Arizona. Peterson is, well, the best back of the past 15 years. I've always seen Keim as a pick-the-best-player guy. And with the multiple defensive gifts of Simmons, he'd qualify as that if there at eight.

9. Jacksonville Jaguars

C.J. Henderson, CB, Florida

Not sure if the Jags will do it, but I hear they've been talking about trading up—and I assume it's for one of the two corners at the top of the CB market. This would be a solid pick for the Jacksonville rebuild. They've lost nearly every defensive player of value except Myles Jack in recent months (with franchised defensive end Yannick Ngakoue being shopped this week too), and adding Henderson would give them a potential premier player at each level of the defense—pass-rusher Josh Allen, linebacker Jack, and Henderson in the back end. Who knows if GM Dave Caldwell and coach Doug Marrone will be around to oversee the remaking of the Jags, but someone's got to do it.

10. Cleveland Browns

Jedrick Wills, OT, Alabama

Andrew Thomas is the preferred player here, and the Browns have been actively trying to trade down, which they could do. That's the thing about the Browns: They crave picks, and if, say, Miami wants come up from 18 because of the major need at tackle, I could see the Browns being happy to move down eight slots and find some equitable value from the Miami treasure trove of high picks (26, 39, 56, 70, plus two first and two second-round picks in 2021).

Wills is a more natural right tackle as opposed to Thomas being a two-year left tackle at Georgia. There are some teams that have Wills the top-rated tackle in a good class of them, so if Cleveland gets him, it's a good pick. He allowed one sack over the past two seasons at Alabama.

11. New York Jets

Mekhi Becton, OT, Louisville

And the run on tackles ends after 11 picks, right about where the football world thinks it will—with GM Joe Douglas' first draft choice as Jets GM. Becton is 6-7 ½ and 365 pounds. He will be the Andre the Giant of the AFC East. "The most impressive thing about him," his former college coach at Louisville, Bobby Petrino, said, "is he can reverse-dunk." Yikes. I do believe that Sam Darnold would find the most impressive thing about his left tackle for the next eight years would be keeping him clean 16 Sundays each fall. This would be a solid pick for Douglas, and not just because Becton can block out the sun. He's competitive and feisty.

12. Las Vegas Raiders

CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma

Maybe the toughest call I had to make Sunday evening, having the Raiders bypass Tua Tagovailoa for Lamb. I did it because I keep hearing both Mike Mayock and Jon Gruden are intrigued with new backup Marcus Mariota; adding Tagovailoa might be the best thing for 2023, but it's not so great for 2020. But they could do it. As for Lamb: Mayock loves him, thinks he's the most complete receiver in the draft, and even though I think Gruden likely would prefer the take-the-top-off speed of Henry Ruggs, he's happy to have a true number one receiver who can win consistently against NFL-caliber corners.

13. New England (projected trade with San Francisco)

Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama

So Tagovailoa could drop, and Bill Belichick really doesn't want to take a quarterback now, with one draft pick in the top 85 this year and needs all over his roster. And truly: I have no indication, no inside information, that says he'd do this. It's simply a guess. But think if you're Belichick. Because your team never finishes 3-13, you never have a chance to get one of the best quarterbacks in the college game. Until Tagovailoa's hip popped out of the socket last November, forcing immediate and urgent surgery, he was 1/1A with the transcendent Joe Burrow to be the first pick in this draft. And you don't want to pillage the lone first or lone second-round pick from next year's draft. But do you do it for a great but pockmarked talent such as Tagovailoa five months after major hip surgery? I do know Belichick would have confidence in his player-procurement skills.

I also don't know what the New England orthopods will say about him. I do know one respected team doctor for an NFL team who gave Tagovailoa the once-over at the combine, and I asked him what he thought about Tagovailoa's propensity for injury while at Alabama—a broken hand, two high-ankle sprains, and a hip dislocation most recently. This is what this doctor—whose team is not in the market for a first-round quarterback—told me Thursday:

"These contact injuries are part of the game. You ask yourself, 'Is this guy injury-prone, or does he have a bullseye on him because he's a crucial player on his team?' I've seen a few of the hip dislocations in football, and my experience is that if you lose blood supply to the hip for a long-enough period of time, you're in trouble. I don't think that was the case here. As I see it, the effects of the dislocation might show up when he's 35, but not when he's 25."

Cautiously optimistic then. Tough call for a franchise, but when would the Patriots ever get a shot at a potential superstar quarterback? Even if they had to throw in next year's first-rounder, I think this would be a risk worth taking for the Patriots.

14. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina

Heard a few things here—that Tampa would love to get a complete running back who can catch to complement Tom Brady, and that they're jonesing for a top corner. With Vita Vea and Ndamukong Suh big bodies on the defensive front, they're not desperate for a disruptive defensive tackle here, but the value is excellent. I can also tell you that if Kinlaw is around at 14, Tampa will get some calls from teams—and not just for Kinlaw, but for Jerry Jeudy and maybe Henry Ruggs. One of the things the Bucs would love about adding an impact player along the front seven: Suh is 33 and Jason Pierre-Paul is 31, and defensive coordinator Todd Bowles is very big on disrupting the pocket. You can't have enough impact players up front.

15. Denver Broncos

Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama

John Elway looks around his living room in Cherry Hills Village a few spirals from the Broncos complex, and says to the scouts and coaches tethered to him via teleconference: "Are you freakin' kidding me? Jeudy falls to us at 15?" It's a gift, he thinks, and it takes him a minute to type in Jeudy and send it on the Microsoft Teams channel to draft central. Sometimes the draft falls weird, and the incredible excess at receiver in this draft makes so many teams with wideout needs say they'll wait till the second and third rounds. Elway could sit back after a pick like this and think about Drew Lock, Courtland Sutton, Jeudy and Phillip Lindsay: I've got a quarterback I feel pretty good about, two top-20 NFL receivers, a 1,000-yard back, and none are 26 years old yet. We're pretty good at the explosive offensive positions.

16. Atlanta Falcons

K'Lavon Chaisson, Edge Rusher, LSU

Worst-kept secret in draft rooms around the league: GM Thomas Dimitroff wants to trade up for one of the two top corners in the draft, Jeff Okudah or C.J. Henderson. He just might. He knows his secondary has to do better than allow 66 percent completions, 28 touchdowns and 7.7 yards per pass play. But if it goes this way, he'd likely get a second-tier corner with the 47th overall pick, and hope Chaisson and Dante Fowler can provide the sort of consistent edge presence his pass rush has been missing.

17. Dallas Cowboys

Xavier McKinney, S, Alabama

Trading down low into the round, or even high into round two, and taking Michigan center Cesar Ruiz as a long-term replacement for the retired Travis Frederick wouldn't surprise me. But there's a big hole at safety that must be filled, and McKinney's the top safety on most boards (apologies, Grant Delpit). McKinney is a sure tackler, proficient in coverage and a very smart player. He's the type of back-end player who could be the leader of a needy secondary for five or six years.

18. Miami Dolphins (from PIT)

A.J. Epenesa, Edge Rusher, Iowa

Might be a bit of reach for the one-year Iowa starter, but this is a big need position, and Epenesa is a solid person and productive player, with 22 sacks and 31 tackles for loss over the last two seasons. You'd like to see him faster than 5.04-seconds in the 40, but such is the story of this year's edge-rush crowd. It's just okay. He'd be well-coached in Brian Flores' scheme, and he'd have a very good mentor in Kyle Van Noy.

19. Las Vegas Raiders (from CHI)

Kristian Fulton, CB, LSU

After the first two corners go, the rest are in a hug mosh pit. Fulton is a PFF darling, rated the 12th-best player in the draft—ahead of C.J. Henderson, Derrick Brown and Javon Kinlaw—and trailing only Jeff Okudah in the cornerback class. He falls into the class of player GM Mike Mayock loves: big-time player in a national championship program, though some have been down on him for cheating on a drug test, which led to a one-year ban in 2017. He'd be the kind of competitive and tested player Jon Gruden loves.

20. Jacksonville Jaguars (from LAR)

Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU

When you ask about Jefferson, you hear lots of NFL people talk about his elite mechanics and route-running. "His speed is good enough, he runs a 12-yard out at exactly 12 yards, and he's got pro tools," said a coach who loves him. A playoff team in the twenties is calculating whether to move up to the teens to get him—and to bypass Henry Ruggs to do so. He's fearless too, the kind of building-block player a good offense should froth over. Jefferson's going to have a good pro career, and he'd be the kind of alternative to deep-threat D.J. Chark the Jaguars could feature, regardless of the coach or quarterback, for five or six years.

21. Philadelphia Eagles

Henry Ruggs III, WR, LSU

Maybe Eagles GM Howie Roseman will find a taker for Alshon Jeffery and his hefty salary (maybe by paying a good chunk of it), or maybe the Eagles have to play with Jeffery and his injury bug for one more season; when he's on the field he's effective if not a star. But the thing I heard about the Eagles in the last few days is, Henry Ruggs will not get past 21. So here we are. Ruggs and his 4.27 40-speed are obviously tempting, and 24 touchdowns on only 98 career catches is explosive stuff. But a couple of things make me wonder. Three years, 41 games, 2.4 catches per game, 41.9 receiving yards per game. The most dangerous weapon in your offense gets 42 yards a game? The other side of that is some very smart offensive minds—Sean Payton, Andy Reid—love Ruggs. He's competitive, and he doesn't drop many. If he goes to Philadelphia, he'll be the deep weapon Carson Wentz has imagined with DeSean Jackson.

22. Minnesota Vikings (from BUF)

Trevon Diggs, CB, Alabama

The type of big cornerback GMs crave these days to face the bigger receivers colleges are churning out. With only Mike Hughes left in a once-rich secondary, the Vikings have no choice but to use first-round replenishment on a corner. This might be overthinking, but I wonder if being Stefon Diggs' younger brother would bug GM Rick Spielman or coach Mike Zimmer. It certainly would be the first question I'd ask at the post-draft press conference.

23. San Francisco 49ers (projected trade with New England)

Josh Jones, OT, Houston

In this projection, I'd have the Niners moving to 23 and getting New England's first-round pick in 2021. Good value, but it won't help John Lynch trying to get a pick or two in the two-day gulf between picks 31 and 156. So I think the Niners look to trade one of their two first-rounders again, so they can add an extra pick in round two or three. If they stay here, tackle's the right call. With Joe Staley having either one year or zero years left, it's a good time to pick a long-term tackle. Jones started for four years at left tackle—45 games—and that's not something you can say for many collegiate tackles these days.

24. New Orleans Saints

A.J. Terrell, CB, Clemson

I think defensive coordinator Dennis Allen's going to love the maturity and competitiveness of his defensive backfield, with Malcolm Jenkins—one of the smartest and most mature players in football—added to Marshon Lattimore, Marcus Wilson, and Terrell, if he's the pick. I like the fit with the Saints because Terrell is a good competitor and very coachable. When you start 30 straight games in a program like Clemson, you're ready to take the next step.

25. Minnesota Vikings

Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson

Most receiving touchdowns in Clemson history: Higgins 27, DeAndre Hopkins 27, Sammy Watkins 27. Higgins needs to get stronger (6-3 ½, 216), but he's the kind of receivers scouts think will improve at the 50-50 balls when he learns to be more physical. At 4.58 in the 40-yard dash, he's no burner, but with a career average of 18.1 yards per catch, he's got the kind of run-after-the-catch instincts that will serve him well at the pro level.

26. Miami Dolphins (from HOU)

Austin Jackson, OT, USC

The Dolphins could trade out to the thirties here, and maybe get Boise's Ezra Cleveland (three years, 40 starts at left tackle) to be their Laremy Tunsil heir. But Jackson, 6-5 and 325 pounds, has basketball-type quickness and the ability to project as an NFL left tackle. If the Dolphins love a tackle here, they've got so many picks they're wise to just sit and select.

27. Seattle Seahawks

Yetur Gross-Matos, DE, Penn State

There's not much of a chance Seattle sits and makes this pick, honestly; GM John Schneider has traded down in the first round eight straight years. I still think he could deal down, particularly if there's a lesser-light big corner he likes available high in the second round. But I couldn't find a logical dance partner for the Seahawks. My feeling is Seattle is doling out hope for Jadeveon Clowney in the $15-million-a-year range, or maybe Everson Griffen; they're the kind of veteran rushers Seattle thinks are necessary in a high-powered NFC West. But Gross-Matos is a good alternative as a backfield disruptor.

28. Baltimore Ravens

Kenneth Murray, LB, Oklahoma

My bet is the Ravens might try to move up a few slots to steal Murray; he's the best pure linebacker in the draft, a sideline to sideline menace, and would be a godsend for defensive coordinator Wink Martindale to use as a chess piece. He's also a future NFL Man of the Year, a totally too-good-to-be-true guy who helps his parents raise three siblings with special needs. Murray to the Ravens is a football match made in heaven. I'd love to see it happen.

29. Tennessee Titans

Isaiah Wilson, OT, Georgia

Imagine that: two Georgia tackles in the first round. The difference is that Andrew Thomas will be counted on as plug-and-play, and Wilson could take a year of grooming, particularly in a year with a weird offseason program like this one. The natural inclination will be to expect Wilson to step in for the departed Jack Conklin, and he may. Wilson's the kind of edgy, angry player who will fit well on the feisty Titans line. I'm just not sure that fit will begin in 2020.

30. Green Bay Packers

Michael Pittman Jr., WR, USC

Professional receiver. Most have him in the second round. But the Packers don't pick again till 62, and they see a solid but unspectacular disciplined route-runner and competitive 50-50-ball player. "He's so reliable," one coach told me Saturday. "He might get lost in a crop of receivers this good, but he shouldn't. He'll be a good receiver in the league for a long time." Speaking of competitive receivers who were a quarterback's best friend: Jordy Nelson, 6-3, 220 — Michael Pittman, 6-4, 222.

31. Dallas Cowboys (projected trade with San Francisco)

Cesar Ruiz, C, Michigan

I said at pick 18 that the Cowboys wanted to replace Travis Frederick with a solid rock in this draft, and it could well be that he'd be on the board midway through the second round with the 51st overall pick. But the Cowboys surrender their third-round pick (82 overall) to move up for a long-term center. The Niners wanted two picks—possibly one for a big-body plugger in the middle of the defensive line, one for a receiver—and this deal does the trick.

32. Kansas City Chiefs

Jeff Gladney, CB, TCU

Craziest rumor of the first round: Chiefs want to trade up for Henry Ruggs if he falls into the twenties. Insane. Do they want every sub 4.35 guy in the National Football League? A couple of theories: There are only two very good cover corners in this draft, Okudah and Henderson, and they'd be long gone by the time the Chiefs could make a reasonable offer. Sammy Watkins is a short-termer, probably only one more year in KC, so another quick-twitch guy would fit either this year or next. Finally, fast guys with slight builds who collide with defenders tend to get hurt, so Ruggs would be good insurance for that in 2020 and a stalwart beyond that.

Anyhoo, the Chiefs' biggest position of need right now is corner, and Gladney is a competitive and tough player who would fit in Steve Spagnuolo's scheme.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

PETER SCHRAGER – NFL.com

Last updated: April 15, 2020

PICK 1

Joe Burrow - QB

School: LSU | Year: Senior (RS)

The **Bengals** may get offered a king's ransom for the rights to select Burrow. Even in that scenario, I can't see them accepting a deal. The Ohio-reared Burrow returns home to the Buckeye State.

PICK 2

Chase Young - Edge

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

My colleague Bucky Brooks recently used the phrase "gold jacket" to describe Young on NFL Network. It's not that crazy. One general manager told me Young could have an even greater impact than reigning Defensive Rookie of the Year **Nick Bosa** just had in San Francisco.

PICK 3

Jeff Okudah - CB

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

Okudah screams "Patriot Way." He's all business, a student of the game and completely deflects attention when it comes to others raving about his play. **Lions** general manager Bob Quinn, vice president of player personnel Kyle O'Brien and head coach Matt Patricia were all brought up through the Pats system. Good fit here. Goodbye, **Darius Slay**. Hello, **Jeff Okudah**.

PICK 4

Tristan Wirfs - OT

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

I've gone back and forth again and again between the top three tackles here: Wirfs, **Jedrick Wills** and **Mekhi Becton**. Wirfs, out of the NFL O-line factory in Iowa City, is viewed by many as the "cleanest" of the bunch. Superb athlete, versatile and smart.

PICK 5

Justin Herbert - QB

School: Oregon | Year: Senior

Many, many years ago, **Dolphins** team doctors **failed free agent Drew Brees on his physical** and the **Saints** ended up signing him shortly thereafter. No one's failed **Tua Tagovailoa** on his physical -- at least that I know of -- but there's enough uncertainty and whispers around the league about what the **Dolphins** are doing here that I'll present an alternative option. Herbert -- big arm, healthy, Academic All-American and Senior Bowl/combine show-stealer -- could be a more attractive Door No. 2.

PICK 6

Tua Tagovailoa - QB

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

GM Tom Telesco treats this stuff like government secrets, and I get the feeling he takes real pride in throwing everyone for a loop seemingly every single year. The **Chargers** could go a variety of ways here, regardless of whether Tua is on the board. The thought of featuring **Derwin James** *and* **Isaiah Simmons** behind **Melvin Ingram** and **Joey Bosa** is awfully tempting. As is drafting one of the top offensive tackles. Tagovailoa to Los Angeles at No. 6 would be a good fit for all parties involved. **Tyrod Taylor** for a year; Tua from there. But this is a guess. I repeat -- *a guess*.

PICK 7

Isaiah Simmons - LB/S

School: Clemson | Year: Junior (RS)

Matt Rhule highly values character, leadership and speed. Add in the local tie-in, and Simmons falling to No. 7 would be a great fit for the **Panthers**' rebuild under a new regime.

PICK 8

Derrick Brown - DT

School: Auburn | Year: Senior

The possible pairing of **Kyler Murray** with former Sooner teammate **CeeDee Lamb** became far less likely after **the DeAndre Hopkins trade**. Insert Brown, an anchor for the **Cardinals**' defensive line. The Auburn product could have left school early last year, but he returned and improved his draft stock immensely.

PICK 9

CJ Henderson - CB

School: Florida | Year: Junior

There's a lot of love for Henderson in the scouting community, and I've spoken to coaches who say he's got some juice to him that **Jeff Okudah** might not. Both could be top 10 picks, and the **Jaguars** -- who parted ways with **Jalen Ramsey** and **A.J. Bouye** over the past six months -- would gladly scoop Henderson up here.

PICK 10

Jedrick Wills - OT

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Another offensive tackle off the board, and this one is considered a Day 1 starter. Cleveland, still in need of offensive line help even after the **Jack Conklin** signing, is in a good spot to nab one of the top OTs in this class.

PICK 11

Mekhi Becton - OT

School: Louisville | Year: Junior

If Wills, Wirfs, Becton or **Andrew Thomas** is still on the board at No. 11, I believe the **Jets** will go offensive line over wide receiver. A mountain of a man who measured in at 6-foot-7, tipped the scales at 364 pounds and ran a 5.1 40-yard dash, Becton would be the left (or right) tackle to protect **Sam Darnold**.

PICK 12

CeeDee Lamb - WR

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

If the **Raiders** are the first team to grab a receiver, I think Lamb's the first wideout off the board. A tough, physical, gregarious and smart pass catcher, Lamb's drawing comparisons to **DeAndre Hopkins** -- and that's not a crazy comp.

PICK 13

Henry Ruggs III - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Ruggs over **Jerry Jeudy**? In Kyle Shanahan's offense, I can see it. That 4.27 speed could be the perfect complement to what **Deebo Samuel** brings to the table. Ruggs isn't just a burner, either: He runs routes, has excellent hands and can do the little things.

PICK 14

Andrew Thomas - OT

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

Keeping **Tom Brady** upright in 2020 has to be the most important thing for Tampa's offense. The Bucs' offensive line isn't bad, but they could use another talented big body. Thomas could go as high as the top 10 if there's a run on tackles, though he's viewed by most teams as the fourth OT off the board.

PICK 15

Jerry Jeudy - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

There's talk of the **Broncos** moving up in the first round to get one of the top wide receivers. If things play out this way, and they don't have to trade, this may be the ideal situation for Denver. Jeudy is the top wide receiver on at least a few teams' boards.

PICK 16

Javon Kinlaw - DT

School: South Carolina | Year: Senior

I've heard top-10 buzz on Kinlaw, but he is still an unfinished product on the field. Off the field, his story is **as inspiring as any in this class** -- and he's an adult well beyond his years. Great fit for the **Falcons**, who added a pass rusher in **Dante Fowler** Jr. during free agency. Plug Kinlaw into a defensive line that already has a lot of young, hungry talent, and Atlanta's pass rush could be one to worry about.

PICK 17

Xavier McKinney - S

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

This may be a lot earlier than where some other mocks have McKinney going, but I think he fills an immediate need for the **Cowboys**' defense. Capable of playing either safety spot, he's a versatile game-changer who's definitely NFL-ready with a high football IQ. The losses of **Byron Jones** and **Jeff Heath** really thinned out Dallas' secondary, but McKinney has the kind of advanced skill set to help fill the void on Day 1.

PICK 18

Joshua Jones - OT

School: Houston | Year: Senior (RS)

After getting their quarterback at No. 5, the **Dolphins** take this opportunity to beef up **Justin Herbert**'s protection. Adding Jones -- a 6-7, 320-pounder, who logged four seasons as Houston's starting left tackle -- would be perfect. He's been a late-in-the-process riser who could end up coming off the board within the top 15 picks.

PICK 19

Kenneth Murray - LB

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

Is linebacker a dire need for the **Raiders**, a team with real concerns at corner and safety? Probably not, especially **with what they did in free agency**. But if you're looking for a leader of the unit for the long-term future, there may be no better franchise cornerstone and leader than Murray. General managers and coaches have raved about his interviews, and he also happens to be a sideline-to-sideline LB who crushed the combine. A Day 1 starter at OU, Murray was a team captain by his sophomore season. Mike Mayock prides himself on acquiring leaders through the draft.

PICK 20

K'Lavon Chaisson - Edge

School: LSU | Year: Sophomore (RS)

Calais Campbell is gone and **Yannick Ngakoue**'s future with the team is a giant question mark. Chaisson could be the guy to pair with **Josh Allen** for years to come. Still somewhat raw, the 20-year-old has great room to grow, but he's naturally explosive off the edge.

PICK 21

Patrick Queen - LB

School: LSU | Year: Junior

Everyone's thinking wide receiver -- no matter what -- at No. 21 for the **Eagles**, but that's not how Howie Roseman typically rolls. Queen is viewed even higher than **Kenneth Murray** on some teams' boards, and I could see Philadelphia going with an immediate game-changer on defense. Despite just one big season at LSU, Queen tore it up, and can roam sideline to sideline with ease. This would be a big swing -- especially with **Justin Jefferson** still on the board -- but I think the linebacker group is a lot thinner than the receiving corps.

PICK 22

Justin Jefferson - WR

School: LSU | Year: Junior

Trade **Stefon Diggs** and end up with Jefferson with **one of the four picks acquired**? Not bad if it works out this way for Minnesota. Jefferson put up eye-popping numbers last season at LSU, but there were skeptics on his speed heading into the combine. He then ripped off a 4.43 40-yard dash, dazzled in interviews and showed why he's the fourth-best wideout -- at least -- in this draft.

PICK 23

Harrison Bryant - TE

School: FAU | Year: Senior

First time you've seen Bryant's name in the first round of a mock draft? Don't be shocked -- I can see it happening. New England has tried to get **Jared Cook** and **Hayden Hurst** in back-to-back offseasons, with no success. Bryant is a big body who can both catch balls and block. He isn't Gronk, but no one is. What he *can* be is a building block for whomever Bill Belichick and Josh McDaniels groom to be the QB of the future.

PICK 24

Brandon Aiyuk - WR

School: Arizona State | Year: Senior

The love for Aiyuk in league circles is a lot stronger than what we're hearing in the media. In speaking with multiple GMs, even with the deep wideout class, Aiyuk is expected to come off the board in Round 1. I've got him going to New Orleans, a team that has very few holes, but could use one more receiver if the **Saints** are going to make a run for **Drew Brees**' elusive second **Super Bowl** ring this season. **Michael Thomas**, **Emmanuel Sanders** and Aiyuk would form a very dangerous 1-2-3.

PICK 25

Ezra Cleveland - OT

School: Boise State | Year: Junior (RS)

I haven't seen Cleveland mocked to go in the first round anywhere else yet, but the 6-6 tower had an outstanding combine, and I've heard he's been great in the virtual interviews throughout this process. There's legitimate top-20 talk around his name now, but I think 25 to the **Vikings** seems to be a good fit.

PICK 26

D'Andre Swift - RB

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

I got crushed (virtually!) by **Dolphins** fans for slotting Swift to them with this pick **in my last mock draft**, but I'm sticking with it. Swift does it all and can impact Miami's offense in a way that **Josh Jacobs** did for the **Raiders** a year ago. He's going to be the best player available here, and whether the market value of running backs has diminished or not, that shouldn't affect rookies who will make far less than veterans looking for second contracts. Swift is tough, fast, strong and can both catch and block. He'd be a great addition to Miami's backfield.

PICK 27

Yetur Gross-Matos - Edge

School: Penn State | Year: Junior

Gross-Matos is 6-5, 266 pounds and an athletic specimen. Penn State's best defensive lineman over the last two years can get to the passer *and* stop the run. I don't see him escaping the first round. The **Seahawks** need more juice off the edge, even if they ultimately end up re-signing **Jadeveon Clowney**.

PICK 28

A.J. Epenesa - Edge

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

The **Ravens** don't move up and *still* get one of the top defensive linemen in this class. He's 6-5, 275 pounds and all business. A versatile athlete who, in his high school days, was all-state in football, all-state in the discus and a 1,000-point scorer in basketball. He made plays as a freshman, and then got significantly better as a sophomore and a junior. The adoring word at the combine was that he plays "mean." **Ravens** DC Don "Wink" Martindale could be the perfect match.

PICK 29

Isaiah Wilson - OT

School: Georgia | Year: Sophomore (RS)

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Wilson took his talents to Athens, where he was one of the most agile offensive linemen in college football a year ago. With the loss of **Jack Conklin** and a great desire to keep giving **Derrick Henry** the rock in Arthur Smith's offense, this could make a whole lot of sense. Google **Wilson's high school footage**. He's about 300 pounds and takes snaps as a Wildcat quarterback.

PICK 30

Jordan Brooks - LB

School: Texas Tech | Year: Senior

Lightning-fast linebacker who fought through a shoulder injury to run at the combine for scouts (posting a 4.54 40). **Blake Martinez** is no longer in Green Bay, so here's his replacement. This class' immense WR depth allows the **Packers** to address that need later on.

PICK 31

Ross Blacklock - DT

School: TCU | Year: Junior (RS)

The **49ers** will have the phone lines (or whatever form of communication teams are using in this virtual draft) open here, as they don't hold a second-, third- or fourth-round pick at the moment. This is an ideal spot for a team that wants to trade up and secure that fifth-year option on a first-round pick. If the **49ers** stay put, I see Blacklock as a good fit. He's now two years removed from a 2018 Achilles injury and is one of the few dominant interior defensive linemen in the draft. Is he **DeForest Buckner**? No. Not yet, at least.

PICK 32

Cesar Ruiz - C

School: Michigan | Year: Junior

The **Chiefs** are returning 20 of 22 starters next season. In other words ... watch out! If they opt to go *best player available*, Ruiz may very well be that guy. Capable of playing either center or guard, he's an intelligent player who can both help protect **Patrick Mahomes** and be a mauler in the run game. Kansas City can go anywhere with this pick, but offensive line is never a bad choice.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

Last updated: April 14, 2020

PICK 1

Joe Burrow - QB

School: LSU | Year: Senior (RS)

The **Bengals** make the Ohio native their next franchise QB.

PICK 2

Chase Young - Edge

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

Ron Rivera can't turn down the opportunity to add the premier pass rusher in the class to a defensive front that's loaded with former first-round picks.

PICK 3

Derrick Brown - DT

School: Auburn | Year: Senior

Cornerback is a top priority, but coach Matt Patricia might opt for line-of-scrimmage disruption over tight coverage when retooling the **Lions**' defense.

PICK 4

Tristan Wirfs - OT

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

Giants general manager Dave Gettleman adds a blue-chip blocker to the lineup to help his prized possessions (**Daniel Jones** and Saquon Barkley) thrive in 2020 and beyond.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

PICK 5

Justin Herbert - QB

School: Oregon | Year: Senior

The **Dolphins** play it safe and take the Oregon standout to be their QB1 in waiting.

PICK 6

Isaiah Simmons - LB/S

School: Clemson | Year: Junior (RS)

Pairing Simmons with **Derwin James** would give the Bolts a pair of Swiss Army Knife defenders on the second level to wreak havoc on opponents with their collective speed, athleticism and versatility.

PICK 7

Jeff Okudah - CB

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

Okudah would provide the **Panthers** with a lockdown corner to challenge the dominant WR1s (**Julio Jones**, **Mike Thomas** and Mike Evans) who reside in the NFC South.

PICK 8

Jedrick Wills - OT

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

The **Cardinals** get a rugged edge blocker to solidify the O-line in front of **Kyler Murray**.

PICK 9

Tua Tagovailoa - QB

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

This should be a no-brainer for the **Jaguars** if Tagovailoa slides to this point. The Alabama standout is a significant upgrade over **Gardner Minshew** and gives the team a long-term option at QB1.

PICK 10

Mekhi Becton - OT

School: Louisville | Year: Junior

The **ultra-athletic Becton** is a natural left tackle with the capacity to dominate on the edges from Day 1.

PICK 11

CeeDee Lamb - WR

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

Joe Douglas has to put more playmakers around **Sam Darnold** to help the QB1 take another step in his development.

PICK 12

Jerry Jeudy - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

As a former receivers coach, Jon Gruden has an affinity for polished route runners, which makes Jeudy the ideal WR1 for the **Raiders**.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

PICK 13

Javon Kinlaw - DT

School: South Carolina | Year: Senior

The **49ers** could replace **DeForest Buckner** with another long, athletic defender with disruptive potential.

PICK 14

Andrew Thomas - OT

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

Adding protection around **Tom Brady** is priority No.1 for the **Buccaneers**.

PICK 15

CJ Henderson - CB

School: Florida | Year: Junior

The talented cornerback would team with **A.J. Bouye** to give the **Broncos** a dynamic tandem on the outside.

PICK 16

A.J. Terrell - CB

School: Clemson | Year: Junior

The Dirty Birds need more playmakers in the secondary. Terrell is a talented cover corner with length, ball skills and toughness.

PICK 17

K'Lavon Chaisson - Edge

School: LSU | Year: Sophomore (RS)

The explosive pass rusher could become **DeMarcus Lawrence**'s perfect tag-team partner in Mike Nolan's aggressive scheme.

PICK 18

Austin Jackson - OT

School: USC | Year: Junior

Upgrading the offensive line with a natural left tackle would help **Ryan Fitzpatrick** -- or, in this mock's case, **Justin Herbert** -- play with more patience and poise from the pocket.

PICK 19

Patrick Queen - LB

School: LSU | Year: Junior

Infusing the defense with more explosive athletes like Queen would help the **Raiders** close the gap on their division rivals.

PICK 20

A.J. Epenesa - Edge

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

GM Dave Caldwell and coach Doug Marrone can re-establish the **Jaguars**' culture and solidify the frontline with a blue-collar defender like Epenesa.

PICK 21

Henry Ruggs III - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

The **Eagles** need more speed and explosiveness in the passing game. Ruggs is a big-play threat with the capacity to score from anywhere on the field.

PICK 22

Kristian Fulton - CB

School: LSU | Year: Senior

The **Vikings** need to replace their departed starting CBs with plug-and-play prospects. Fulton has all of the tools needed to be a high-level cover corner early in his career.

PICK 23

Xavier McKinney - S

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Bill Belichick loves defenders who are smart, tough and physical.

PICK 24

Jordan Love - QB

School: Utah State | Year: Junior (RS)

Imagine the fun Sean Payton could have grooming the super-talented Love for the QB1 role down the road.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

PICK 25

Justin Jefferson - WR

School: LSU | Year: Junior

The **Vikings** could replace **Stefon Diggs** with a versatile receiver possessing exceptional route-running skills and dependable hands.

PICK 26

D'Andre Swift - RB

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

The **Dolphins** desperately need an elite running back to spark their offense. Swift is a dynamic playmaker with outstanding skills as a runner-receiver.

PICK 27

Yetur Gross-Matos - Edge

School: Penn State | Year: Junior

With or without **Jadeveon Clowney**, the 'Hawks need a pass rusher with length and athleticism coming off the edge.

PICK 28

Zack Baun - LB

School: Wisconsin | Year: Senior (RS)

Versatility and explosiveness are coveted by **Ravens** defensive coordinator Don "Wink" Martindale. Baun checks off those boxes as a three-down linebacker with instincts and excellent blitz skills.

PICK 29

Marlon Davidson - Edge

School: Auburn | Year: Senior

Davidson's versatility, toughness and brutal physicality fit into the **Titans**' culture.

PICK 30

Joshua Jones - OT

School: Houston | Year: Senior (RS)

The **Packers** could add an athletic blocker to the mix to better protect **Aaron Rodgers** while also enabling Matt LaFleur to fully implement a zone-based running game.

PICK 31

Trevon Diggs - CB

School: Alabama | Year: Senior

It's the perfect time for San Francisco to add **Richard Sherman**'s successor. Diggs is a natural fit for the **49ers**' Cover 3 scheme as a converted wide receiver with length and outstanding ball skills.

PICK 32

J.K. Dobbins - RB

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

The **Chiefs**' offense has continued to thrive with a committee backfield, but the unit could surge with a legitimate RB1 in the fold.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

CHARLES DAVIS – NFL.com

Last updated: April 2, 2020

PICK 1

Joe Burrow - QB

School: LSU | Year: Senior (RS)

There will be offers and plenty of discussion about teams wanting to move up to No. 1 overall, but the **Bengals** will rightly resist and select the young man who's straight out of central casting for them.

PICK 2

Chase Young - Edge

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

Arguably the best player in the 2020 draft, Young will fortify an already good, burgeoning defensive front.

PICK 3

Jeff Okudah - CB

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

Not only does Okudah fit a screaming need for the **Lions** with **Darius Slay now in Philadelphia**, but he is also the best CB in this draft. The **Lions** might also consider using this pick on DT **Derrick Brown** from Auburn.

PICK 4

Isaiah Simmons - OLB

School: Clemson | Year: Junior (RS)

It would make sense if the **Giants** decide to draft one of the top offensive tackles here, but they're in great need of help on defense, and Simmons is the most versatile defender in the draft.

PICK 5

Tua Tagovailoa - QB

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Tagovailoa is the most discussed player in this year's class, thanks to his tremendous talent and his recovery from a severe, season-ending hip injury from which he only **recently was fully cleared**. Turns out the **Dolphins** didn't have to "Tank for Tua" after all.

PICK 6

Justin Herbert - QB

School: Oregon | Year: Senior

With **Philip Rivers** gone to Indianapolis, the **Chargers** use the sixth overall pick on their leader of the future. However, if **Cam Newton** signs with the Bolts in the coming weeks, they could easily use this pick on an offensive tackle.

PICK 7

Derrick Brown - DT

School: Auburn | Year: Senior

The **Panthers** need to replenish their usually stout defensive front, and Brown will create rubble inside. An offensive tackle to help new QB **Teddy Bridgewater** is also a possibility.

PICK 8

Andrew Thomas - OT

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

After trading for **DeAndre Hopkins**, adding to the O-line became an easier decision for the **Cardinals**.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

CHARLES DAVIS – NFL.com

PICK 9

Tristan Wirfs - OT

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

Some may see the Jags taking a receiver here, but Wirfs' ability to play tackle or even kick inside to guard would really strengthen this offense. Could the Jags surprise a bit and go QB here?

PICK 10

Mekhi Becton - OT

School: Louisville | Year: Junior

The **Browns** add to a **tremendous free agency haul** by drafting the massive Becton to complement the recently signed **Jack Conklin** at the tackle spots.

PICK 11

Jerry Jeudy - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Burner **Robby Anderson** is off to Carolina, so New York takes Jeudy, a tremendous blend of athlete and technician, who fires up **Sam Darnold** and the **Jets**' offense.

PICK 12

CeeDee Lamb - WR

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

The **Raiders** have their eyes on finding playmakers, and Lamb -- who averaged more than 21 yards per catch and scored 14 TDs in 2019 -- certainly fits the bill.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

CHARLES DAVIS – NFL.com

PICK 13

C.J. Henderson - CB

School: Florida | Year: Junior

I know the Niners' rise to the top of the NFC last season stems from their heavy investment in building up a formidable D-line, and there's a case to be made to use this selection to continue doing just that. ... But they also need help at CB, and Henderson is terrific.

PICK 14

Jedrick Wills - OT

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

When you sign the G.O.A.T., you protect the G.O.A.T. Wills is a skilled pass blocker who should help keep TB12 upright.

PICK 15

Henry Ruggs III - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Drew Lock gave **Broncos** fans optimism with his play down the stretch, and now his front office gives him the **fastest WR in the draft** to open up the offense.

PICK 16

Javon Kinlaw - DT

School: South Carolina | Year: Senior

After signing **Dante Fowler** to bring heat off the edge, the **Falcons** give star DT **Grady Jarrett** a running mate inside to push the pocket in the NFC South.

PICK 17

K'Lavon Chaisson - Edge

School: LSU | Year: Sophomore (RS)

I love his ability to impact the game both physically and with intelligent play. Chaisson is a good pass rusher, too, and should help Tank Lawrence in a big way.

PICK 18

Austin Jackson - OT

School: USC | Year: Junior

Struggled to play at his best in 2019 after **donating bone marrow to his sister**, but the **Dolphins** are betting on his athleticism and upside.

PICK 19

Ross Blacklock - DT

School: TCU | Year: Junior (RS)

Possessing a nice combination of aggressiveness, quickness and big plays upfield, Blacklock's overall makeup fits the type of player Mike Mayock and Jon Gruden covet.

PICK 20

Trevon Diggs - CB

School: Alabama | Year: Senior

The Jags have a big need at CB, and Diggs would immediately compete to start. If long speed is an issue, Diggs has the size/smarts to swing to safety and make an impact.

PICK 21

Tee Higgins - WR

School: Clemson | Year: Junior

No sense overthinking this selection. The WR corps needs to be upgraded, and Higgins provides a big target on the perimeter for **Carson Wentz**.

PICK 22

Xavier McKinney - S

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Could be the replacement for franchise-tagged safety **Anthony Harris**, if **the Vikings trade him in the coming weeks**, or might figure right into coach Mike Zimmer's "big nickel" scheme.

PICK 23

Jordan Love - QB

School: Utah State | Year: Junior (RS)

Yes, totally against the grain for New England to select a QB this high, but Love could easily be selected in the top 10. The **Patriots** snap up the QB to begin the post-Brady era.

PICK 24

Patrick Queen - LB

School: LSU | Year: Junior

I'm taking coach Sean Payton at his word that he views backup **Taysom Hill** as a potential **starting QB in the NFL**, so the **Saints** bypass a passer with this pick and opt to add more speed to their defense.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

CHARLES DAVIS – NFL.com

PICK 25

Justin Jefferson - WR

School: LSU | Year: Junior

A nifty slot receiver who ran **4.43 at the combine**, Jefferson adds playmaking opportunities for **Kirk Cousins** and softens the **loss of Stefon Diggs**.

PICK 26

D'Andre Swift - RB

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

The **Dolphins** MUST add a big-time runner to help their offense. Fortunately, they land the best back in the draft with their final first-round pick of the night.

PICK 27

Yetur Gross-Matos - Edge

School: Penn State | Year: Junior

Willowy speed rusher who's needed to put pressure on opposing NFC West QBs and keep the **Seahawks** in the title hunt.

PICK 28

Kenneth Murray - LB

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

Big-time speed, sideline-to-sideline pursuit and can be used in a variety of ways in DC Don "Wink" Martindale's unconventional, and highly effective, schemes.

PICK 29

Joshua Jones - OT

School: Houston | Year: Senior (RS)

The **Titans** fill the void left from right tackle **Jack Conklin**'s **departure in free agency** by selecting a promising talent who really emerged at the Reese's **Senior Bowl**. **Derrick Henry**'s going to like this pick.

PICK 30

Laviska Shenault - WR

School: Colorado | Year: Junior

The **Packers** give **Aaron Rodgers** another weapon on the perimeter who can be used on jet sweeps, screens and in the running game, as well.

PICK 31

Brandon Aiyuk - WR

School: Arizona State | Year: Senior

San Francisco lost **Emmanuel Sanders** to New Orleans in free agency, so the selection of this highflier -- capable of scoring through the air, on the ground and in the kick return game -- makes a lot of sense.

PICK 32

Zack Baun - LB

School: Wisconsin | Year: Senior (RS)

I gave Kansas City a runner **last time** (and that move still makes a lot of sense to me), but here's a chance for the **Chiefs** to continue to upgrade their defense. Baun has solid coverage skills and can rush the passer, too.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

Last updated: April 7, 2020

PICK 1

Joe Burrow - QB

School: LSU | Year: Senior (RS)

I'm sure there will be several teams interested in trading up for Burrow, but I can't see the **Bengals** passing up the opportunity to land their top QB.

PICK 2

Chase Young - Edge

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

I understand the **Redskins** already have depth on the defensive line, but Young is too good to pass up.

PICK 3

Jeff Okudah - CB

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

Okudah is the premier player at his position in this draft and fills a massive need on the **Lions'** defense.

PICK 4

Tristan Wirfs - OT

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

The **Giants** have needs all over their defense, but I still believe protecting **Daniel Jones** is the top priority.

PICK 5

Justin Herbert - QB

School: Oregon | Year: Senior

I have **Tua Tagovailoa rated higher than Herbert**, but I think there's a legitimate chance the Oregon QB goes ahead of Tua.

PICK 6

Tua Tagovailoa - QB

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

The **Chargers** have a talented roster and now they have a point guard to distribute the ball for the next decade-plus.

PICK 7

Derrick Brown - DT

School: Auburn | Year: Senior

The **Panthers** have a bunch of intriguing options with the seventh pick. I wouldn't rule out a trade down from this spot, either.

PICK 8

Jedrick Wills - OT

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

The **Cardinals** addressed the WR position with **the acquisition of DeAndre Hopkins**. Wills would slide right into the RT spot, opposite **D.J. Humphries**.

PICK 9

Mekhi Becton - OT

School: Louisville | Year: Junior

The **Jaguars** have a multitude of needs on defense, but this pick helps them upgrade two spots. Becton takes over at LT and **Cam Robinson** slides inside to guard.

PICK 10

Isaiah Simmons - LB/S

School: Clemson | Year: Junior (RS)

The **Browns** need another offensive tackle, but Simmons might be too good to bypass. He is the perfect defender to match up with the division's most dangerous playmaker, **Lamar Jackson**.

PICK 11

CeeDee Lamb - WR

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

The **Jets** need to continue to upgrade the O-line, but they must weigh taking the fourth-best OT versus the top wideout. **Sam Darnold** needs some dynamic players around him.

PICK 12

Jerry Jeudy - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

This decision would likely come down to Jeudy versus **Javon Kinlaw**. I would applaud either choice.

PICK 13

Henry Ruggs III - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Let's take a minute and just imagine Ruggs in the hands of a creative play-caller like Kyle Shanahan.

PICK 14

Andrew Thomas - OT

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

The Bucs are all in on **Tom Brady**. Adding some protection for him is a good idea.

PICK 15

Javon Kinlaw - DT

School: South Carolina | Year: Senior

The **Broncos** could go receiver here, but they also have a need on the D-line. Kinlaw has unlimited potential.

PICK 16

C.J. Henderson - CB

School: Florida | Year: Junior

The **Falcons** have plenty of firepower on offense, but the secondary needs help. Henderson has the greatest upside of any cornerback in the draft class.

PICK 17

K'Lavon Chaisson - Edge

School: LSU | Year: Sophomore (RS)

Chaisson would be an ideal fit on the opposite side of **Demarcus Lawrence**. He is still a little raw, but he's very explosive.

PICK 18

Yetur Gross-Matos - Edge

School: Penn State | Year: Junior

Gross-Matos would give the **Dolphins** some much-needed edge rush. The more I studied him, the more I liked him.

PICK 19

A.J. Terrell - CB

School: Clemson | Year: Junior

Terrell would reunite with his college teammate, **Trayvon Mullen**, to give the **Raiders** two tall, long and rangy CBs to build their secondary around.

PICK 20

Justin Jefferson - WR

School: LSU | Year: Junior

Jefferson has outstanding hands and route polish. He excels on third down and in the red zone.

PICK 21

Kenneth Murray - LB

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

The **Eagles** need to add receivers, but they can afford to wait a round or two. Murray would give them a dynamic playmaker in the middle of their defense.

PICK 22

Jaylon Johnson - CB

School: Utah | Year: Junior

Johnson is rock solid on tape and he has the tools to fit perfectly in the **Vikings**' scheme.

PICK 23

A.J. Epenesa - Edge

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

The **Patriots** love size and power on the edges. Epenesa isn't an elite tester, but he's a very productive football player.

PICK 24

Patrick Queen - LB

School: LSU | Year: Junior

The **Saints** don't have many glaring needs. They can afford to simply take the best player available.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

PICK 25

Tee Higgins - WR

School: Clemson | Year: Junior

Higgins would bring some size and red-zone ability to the **Vikings**' offense.

PICK 26

Joshua Jones - OT

School: Houston | Year: Senior (RS)

The **Dolphins** must address the offensive line in this draft. I could see them doubling up in the next round.

PICK 27

Austin Jackson - OT

School: USC | Year: Junior

Jackson was very up and down last season, but he's an outstanding athlete. He should continue to improve as a pro.

PICK 28

Zack Baun - LB

School: Wisconsin | Year: Senior (RS)

The **Ravens** need more edge rush. Baun has the athleticism to drop and cover, as well.

PICK 29

Brandon Aiyuk - WR

School: Arizona State | Year: Senior

I love Aiyuk's game and his toughness would fit the culture in Tennessee.

PICK 30

Jordan Love - QB

School: Utah State | Year: Junior (RS)

It's tough to find the right spot for Love. He could go in the top 10 or fall to this neighborhood of the draft. The **Packers** would be a great fit for him to sit, learn and develop.

PICK 31

Ross Blacklock - DT

School: TCU | Year: Junior (RS)

The **49ers** will likely trade down to stockpile selections, as they currently don't hold a pick in Rounds 2-4.

PICK 32

Cesar Ruiz - C

School: Michigan | Year: Junior

The **Chiefs** could have their choice of the top running backs, but they also need to get younger/better along the interior of their offensive line.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

LANCE ZIERLEIN – NFL.com

Last updated: March 20, 2020

PICK 1

Joe Burrow - QB

School: LSU | Year: Senior (RS)

PROJECTED TRADE WITH BENGALS. If there is any sense in Cincinnati that Burrow doesn't want to be a Bengal long-term, then the team should listen to offers. An NFL executive I consulted with felt that including *all three* of Miami's first-round picks in this deal would be too much, so I'm sending Cincy Pick Nos. 5 and 18, as well as second-round selections.

PICK 2

Chase Young - Edge

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

Young's physical makeup is rare, as is his junior-year production (16.5 sacks in 12 games). While defensive ends (and former first overall picks) like **Jadeveon Clowney** and **Myles Garrett** had the physical tools coming into the league, Young has been out here eating on the field consistently.

PICK 3

Tua Tagovailoa - QB

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

PROJECTED TRADE WITH LIONS. The **Chargers** are headed into a new stadium without much fanfare at the QB position, unless they move up three spots and secure this talented lefty, who should become the face of their franchise by 2021.

PICK 4

Mekhi Becton - OT

School: Louisville | Year: Junior

Massive and athletic are descriptors we don't often see used in the same sentence, but the Louisville left tackle is that guy. The **Giants** could go with **Isaiah Simmons** or **Jedrick Wills** in this spot, as well.

PICK 5

Justin Herbert - QB

School: Oregon | Year: Senior

PROJECTED TRADE WITH DOLPHINS. With the **Bengals** trading back in this scenario, it's worth noting that head coach Zac Taylor and his staff should have a feel for Herbert after working with him at the **Senior Bowl** in January. If they liked what they saw, it might be enough to allow them to accept this trade and make this pick.

PICK 6

Jeff Okudah - CB

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

PROJECTED TRADE WITH CHARGERS. With the trade of **Darius Slay** to the **Eagles**, the **Lions** will be ready to turn in the card for Okudah. He's a talented, twitchy CB1 who has room to get even better.

PICK 7

Jedrick Wills - OT

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Wills is an instant plug-and-play starter at right tackle -- and sources at Alabama believe he has the ability to switch to left tackle if called upon to help protect **Teddy Bridgewater**.

PICK 8

Isaiah Simmons - LB/S

School: Clemson | Year: Junior (RS)

The guess here is that Arizona won't be expecting to see Simmons on the board, but if he is, he may be too enticing to pass up. Plugging in an OT here is an easy move, but **Tristan Wirfs** doesn't offer the same potential impact as Simmons.

PICK 9

Derrick Brown - DT

School: Auburn | Year: Senior

Selecting **Josh Allen** was a terrific move for the **Jaguars** last year. Following that up with a disruptive interior lineman would be a step in the right direction for a team looking to re-establish its defensive identity.

PICK 10

Tristan Wirfs - OT

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

Athletic tackle who has experience on both the left and right sides. With **Jack Conklin** in the fold now, Wirfs gives the **Browns** a chance to protect **Baker Mayfield** with a pair of quality bookends.

PICK 11

CeeDee Lamb - WR

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

Sam Darnold gets the top receiver on the board and a player who can line up inside or outside as he attacks on all three levels.

PICK 12

Jerry Jeudy - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Pristine route runner with good speed and explosiveness. He can be a field stretcher or a volume target, depending on the matchup.

PICK 13

Javon Kinlaw - DL

School: South Carolina | Year: Senior

DeForest Buckner is gone ... and in his place steps another long-limbed, physical freak. Build the fronts and the rest falls into place.

PICK 14

Andrew Thomas - OT

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

Thomas has experience at both left and right tackle. He plays with a gritty demeanor while offering *gets-guys-blocked* value in pass protection.

PICK 15

Henry Ruggs III - WR

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

Now **Drew Lock** has a legitimate field stretcher to back safeties up and create even more room for emerging WR1 **Courtland Sutton**.

PICK 16

C.J. Henderson - CB

School: Florida | Year: Junior

Henderson is a smooth outside cornerback with a tremendous combination of speed and fluidity to help bolster the **Falcons**' coverage on Day 1.

PICK 17

K'Lavon Chaisson - Edge

School: LSU | Year: Sophomore (RS)

Dallas selects a slithery edge rusher who put together his best work over the second half of the 2019 season. He should inject some spice into the **Cowboys**' pass rush.

PICK 18

Kenneth Murray - LB

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

PROJECTED TRADE WITH DOLPHINS. The former Oklahoma linebacker can play in the middle or outside. He's fast, can cover and brings an alpha demeanor to the unit.

PICK 19

A.J. Terrell - CB

School: Clemson | Year: Junior

The **Raiders** have done a nice job filling some of their holes via free agency, but they still need corner help and Terrell fits the winning culture that GM Mike Mayock covets.

PICK 20

Jordan Love - QB

School: Utah State | Year: Junior (RS)

If Love is still on the board here, it might be hard for the **Jaguars** to pass on the boom-or-bust prospect with loads of talent.

PICK 21

Justin Jefferson - WR

School: LSU | Year: Junior

Jefferson has excellent ball skills and was terrific when working from the slot in 2019. He can play inside or outside and offers an upgrade for the offense.

PICK 22

Yetur Gross-Matos - Edge

School: Penn State | Year: Junior

With **Everson Griffen** exploring free agency, the **Vikings** could look to fill the void here. Gross-Matos is an ascending defensive end with traits and rush potential waiting to be developed.

PICK 23

Patrick Queen - LB

School: LSU | Year: Junior

Figuring out what Bill Belichick is going to do isn't getting any easier. However, Queen is tough and fast. He could become the new leader of the defense by next year.

PICK 24

Denzel Mims - WR

School: Baylor | Year: Senior (RS)

With no second-round pick this year, the pressure will be on the **Saints** in Round 1 to find a wideout who can stretch the field and take pressure off of **Michael Thomas**.

PICK 25

Ross Blacklock - DT

School: TCU | Year: Junior (RS)

The **Vikings** know they can find receiver talent outside of the first round, but finding an interior pass rusher like Blacklock won't be as easy.

PICK 26 **Joshua Jones - OT**

School: Houston | Year: Senior (RS)

Jones didn't display the kind of athleticism I expected to see from him at the NFL **Scouting Combine** (he may have carried too much weight). He has legitimate left tackle upside but a lower floor.

PICK 27 **Austin Jackson - OT**

School: USC | Year: Junior

Athletic tackle prospect who is picking up steam in certain scouting circles, but he needs to get stronger and more consistent with technique.

PICK 28 **Zack Baun - LB/edge**

School: Wisconsin | Year: Senior (RS)

Baun offers rare LB/edge versatility that will fit nicely with Baltimore's needs. He's fluid moving in space and has real edge-bending talent as a rusher.

PICK 29 **Jeff Gladney - CB**

School: TCU | Year: Senior (RS)

The **Titans** must get better in the back end and there is no question that Gladney is one of the most tenacious ballhawks in this draft.

PICK 30

Jalen Reagor - WR

School: TCU | Year: Junior

Reagor has explosive field speed and is a sudden target underneath. He could become an early favorite of **Aaron Rodgers**.

PICK 31

Trevon Diggs - CB

School: Alabama | Year: Senior

Diggs didn't test at the combine, but his size, length and ball skills could still be enticing for the **49ers**, even if they never get to time him in the 40-yard dash.

PICK 32

D'Andre Swift - RB

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

This is theft. Grabbing a three-down talent like Swift makes it even tougher to slow the champs.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

PETE PRISCO – CBSSPORTS.com

Last updated: April 9, 2020

1. Cincinnati Bengals

Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

This is a lock. Even if they were to get wowed by a team with an amazing offer, I think they stay put and take Burrow.

2. Washington Redskins

Chase Young, EDGE, Ohio State

Why not take the best pass rusher in this class? Young will be a force for new defense.

3. Detroit Lions

Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State

They should take Derrick Brown in this spot, but I think they might be leaning to the corner. Okudah is clearly the best of this class.

4. New York Giants

Isaiah Simmons, LB, Clemson

They should take an offensive tackle, but instead they take a playmaking defender. The big concern is where to play Simmons.

5. Miami Dolphins

Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

I just think there are too many injury concerns about Tua Tagovailoa for the Dolphins. They take Herbert, a big power passer who is raw.

6. Los Angeles Chargers

Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama

The Dolphins pass on Tua, but the Chargers don't. They take the risk on Tagovailoa being healthy.

7. Carolina Panthers

Derrick Brown, DL, Auburn

They have to get a power player in the middle of their defense. Brown will be a force once he learns how to use his hands as a pass rusher.

8. Arizona Cardinals

Jedrick Wills Jr., OL, Alabama

They need a right tackle and he fits with what they want to do. He will be a day one starter.

9. Jacksonville Jaguars

Mekhi Becton, OL, Louisville

He is a big, talented tackle who would give them a nice pair of bookends with second-year player Jawaan Taylor.

10. Cleveland Browns

Andrew Thomas, OL, Georgia

He would fill a major need at left tackle and pair with Jack Conklin to give them a major upgrade from a year ago. Thomas gets the edge over Tristan Wirfs.

11. New York Jets

Tristan Wirfs, OL, Iowa

The run on tackles continues here as the Jets take Wirfs, who can play both sides. They need an upgrade in front of Sam Darnold.

12. Las Vegas Raiders

CJ Henderson, CB, Florida

They have to get an upgrade at corner. The defense has made strides in free agency, but a top corner is lacking. Henderson is an outstanding cover player.

13. San Francisco 49ers (from IND)

Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama

The 49ers need help outside and Jeudy is the most-polished of the receiving group. He would be a nice addition to Kyle Shanahan's offense.

14. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Javon Kinlaw, DL, South Carolina

They brought back Ndamukong Suh on a one-year deal, but adding another big body makes sense with the four top tackles off the board.

15. Denver Broncos

CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma

They have to get help for the passing game and Lamb is a polished receiver who will step in and help Drew Lock right away.

16. Atlanta Falcons

K'Lavon Chaisson, EDGE, LSU

With both Okudah and Henderson off the board, they opt to help the pass rush to add to Takk McKinley and Dante Fowler. They do need a corner.

17. Dallas Cowboys

Yetur Gross-Matos, EDGE, Penn State

They need to get help for DeMarcus Lawrence rushing the passer. They can't rely on Randy Gregory and Aldon Smth.

18. Miami Dolphins (from PIT)

Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama

This might not seem like a need, but why not take a speed receiver to grow with your young quarterback?

19. Las Vegas Raiders (from CHI)

Jordan Love, QB, Utah State

We hear Jon Gruden doesn't really want Derek Carr and Marcus Mariota sure isn't the answer. So why not take a quarterback who can sit and wait?

20. Jacksonville Jaguars (from LAR)

Noah Igbinoghene, CB, Auburn

They need help at corner and this kid has a lot of coverage ability. He was much more physical on tape than I expected.

21. Philadelphia Eagles

Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU

They have to get help at receiver. Jefferson would add some much needed speed to a group that has questions.

22. Minnesota Vikings (from BUF)

Kristian Fulton, CB, LSU

They have little left after free agency at the position, so landing a cover player like Fulton makes sense. Could also go pass rusher here.

23. New England Patriots

Zack Baun, LB, Wisconsin

They love players who are versatile and Baun is that. He can play the edge and some teams think he's a middle linebacker. He fits the Patriots way.

24. New Orleans Saints

Kenneth Murray, LB, Oklahoma

They need an upgrade at linebacker and Murray is a perfect player to do that. He can run and cover.

25. Minnesota Vikings

Austin Jackson, OL, USC

They need to get bigger up front. By taking Jackson they could move Riley Reiff inside to guard. They got manhandled up front at times last season.

26. Miami Dolphins (from HOU)

Ezra Cleveland, OL, Boise State

They need to get a left tackle. So after taking a quarterback and a speed receiver, Cleveland is the pick. The offense is on its way to being better.

27. Seattle Seahawks

Isaiah Wilson, OL, Georgia

The guys they have on the roster right now to play right tackle are not long-term starters. This kid would be.

28. Baltimore Ravens

Patrick Queen, LB, LSU

They need to get a young linebacker to play behind their big front. Queen would be a perfect fit in their defense.

29. Tennessee Titans

Ross Blacklock, DL, TCU

They need another power player up front to go with Jeffrey Simmons. Blacklock is a name I hear often from personnel people at the back end of the first round.

30. Green Bay Packers

Brandon Aiyuk, WR, Arizona State

They have to get more help outside in their passing game. Aiyuk only did it for one year for the Sun Devils, but he can play. He did have core muscle surgery recently.

31. San Francisco 49ers

A.J. Terrell, CB, Clemson

Terrell was outstanding in 2018, which is why scouts like him. He is a player who can hold up in man coverage and would fill a need for the 49ers.

32. Kansas City Chiefs

Cesar Ruiz, OL, Michigan

He could play guard for them early in his career, but he has a chance to be a star center.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

VINNIE IYER – SPORTING NEWS

Last updated: April 9, 2020

1. Cincinnati Bengals

Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

Unless another team gets aggressive and makes Cincinnati an offer it can't refuse, Burrow will be the franchise quarterback under offensive-minded coach Zac Taylor. At 6-3, 221 pounds, Burrow combines his mental and physical toughness in the pocket with a strong arm and an accurate delivery. During his Heisman Trophy- and national championship-winning run with the Tigers, his leadership skills and athleticism flourished at an unprecedented college level.

2. Washington Redskins

Chase Young, EDGE, Ohio State

Assuming the Redskins do not get a can't-refuse offer to trade back, they should jump at the chance to get this cornerstone talent for the team's defensive rebuild under defensive-minded Ron Rivera. Young (6-5, 264 pounds) is a game-changing disruptor who had 16.5 sacks in only 12 games as a junior. He can produce at an all-around level even higher than that of Nick Bosa, who went No. 2 from the Buckeyes to the 49ers and promptly dominated as SN's Rookie of the Year.

3. Detroit Lions

Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State

The Lions moved Darius Slay in a trade with the Eagles and signed Desmond Trufant to replace him, but they need to address the other outside corner spot. Okudah, an elite ball hawk at 6-1, 205 pounds, has the build to handle receivers of all sizes. He is fluid and quick enough with great recovery skills in coverage to develop into a shutdown type with his strengths showing up in press man.

4. New York Giants

Isaiah Simmons, LB, Clemson

The Giants signed Blake Martinez and hope Ryan Connelly can be healthy enough to show his rookie promise, but they still need another impact playmaker for Patrick Graham's linebacker corps. Simmons (6-3, 238 pounds) seemed to be all over the field at all times in college with great speed and range. He gets everywhere in a hurry, from rushing the passer to moving laterally to get in ideal coverage positions.

5. Miami Dolphins

Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama

The Dolphins have resisted another veteran option with current bridge QB Ryan Fitzpatrick under contract for one more year. That provides the green light for Tagovailoa (6-0, 217 pounds), who has been cleared for football contact after the hip injury that cut short his final college season. When healthy, Tagovailoa is an accurate, mobile, deep-ball throwing QB with the upside of Russell Wilson, only throwing with his left arm.

6. Los Angeles Chargers

Mekhi Becton, OT, Louisville

The Chargers go for pass protection over passer here with a bookend for new right tackle Bryan Bulaga. Becton (6-7, 369 pounds) has gotten more attention for his strong and powerful frame, as he has shown he can also be smooth in his movements. He is willing to work hard to become as good in pass protection as he is overwhelming blockers when setting the edge against the run.

7. Carolina Panthers

Derrick Brown, DT, Auburn

The Panthers need a linchpin as they try to get better against the run and reconstruct their front seven. Brown has shined throughout the draft process as the most impactful interior defensive prospect. At 6-5, 326 pounds, he is a quick disruptor who makes a lot of plays in the backfield.

8. Arizona Cardinals

Jedrick Wills, OT, Alabama

With Becton going to the Giants, this is an easy pick for the Cardinals given they already addressed their need for a No. 1 wide receiver by trading for DeAndre Hopkins. They can opt for Wills at right tackle after re-signing D.J. Humphries on the left side. The 6-4, 312-pound Wills is a strong, powerful run-blocker who needs a little time to develop into an elite pass-protector.

9. Jacksonville Jaguars

Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

The Jaguars decide to get their competition for Gardner Minshew. Herbert (6-6, 236 pounds) efficient and mentally tough with underrated athleticism, which manifested down the stretch of his final season with the Ducks. He needs a little help with his decision-making, but at the Senior Bowl, he proved how receptive he is to coaching.

10. Cleveland Browns

Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa

The Browns took care of right tackle in free agency with Jack Conklin signed to replace Chris Hubbard. Here they get a massive upgrade from Greg Robinson on Baker Mayfield's blindside. Wirfs has the athleticism at 6-5, 320 pounds to hold down left tackle for a long time. He combines his pass-blocking skills with power and physicality in the running game.

11. New York Jets

C.J. Henderson, CB, Florida

Henderson is settling in as the class' No. 2 corner behind Okudah. The Jets released Trumaine Johnson, leaving a massive void in outside coverage even with Arthur Maulet returning and Brian Poole re-signed for the slot. Henderson (6-1, 204 pounds) plays bigger than his size with great athleticism and technique in his favor. He just needs to get a little more physical to be trusted against receivers who rely on body positioning to get open.

12. Las Vegas Raiders

CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma

The Raiders have a glaring need for a top receiver no matter who their QB is in 2020, whether that's Derek Carr or someone else. The Antonio Brown debacle is behind them, but they also need to worry about Tyrell Williams coming off a disappointing season and foot surgery. Lamb can be the Raiders' version of DeAndre Hopkins, an explosive field-stretcher and steady possession guy outside. At 6-1, 198 pounds, Lamb needed only 58 receptions to post 1,208 yards and 14 TDs in 13 games last season.

13. San Francisco 49ers (from Colts)

Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama

The 49ers have George Kittle and Deebo Samuel as key non-traditional top targets, and they get one here for Jimmy Garoppolo to compensate for losing Emmanuel Sanders. Jeudy (6-1, 193 pounds) also fits the profile as a No. 1 receiver; he is a classic intermediate to deep field-stretcher and smooth drive-finisher in the red zone.

14. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia

The Buccaneers are OK with left tackle Donovan Smith, left guard Ali Marpet, center Ryan Jensen and right guard Alex Cappa in front of Tom Brady, but they need better protection on the right edge with Demar Doston being a free agent. Thomas matches great size (6-5, 315 pounds) with good hands and footwork. Brady, Bruce Arians and Byron Leftwich also will love what Thomas can do to open holes for the running game.

15. Denver Broncos

Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama

The Broncos could use a versatile, big-play speedster to complement Courtland Sutton, Daesean Hamilton and tight end Noah Fant to take better advantage of Drew Lock's big arm. Ruggs (5-11, 188 pounds) fits the bill as a field-stretcher who also can use his route-running skills to win on shorter routes.

16. Atlanta Falcons

Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina

The Falcons addressed the edge in free agency by signing Dante Fowler Jr. so here they work to better flank Fowler and Grady Jarrett from the inside. Kinlaw (6-5, 324 pounds) knows how to use his size and arms to complement his strength and power at the point of attack.

17. Dallas Cowboys

A.J. Epenesa, EDGE, Iowa

The Cowboys lost aging Robert Quinn as their top complementary pass rusher opposite DeMarcus Lawrence. Epenesa (6-5, 274 pounds) is a powerful, explosive, big-bodied player. He can push blockers out of the way to get to the QB, and he also stands strong against the run.

18. Miami Dolphins (from Steelers)

Xavier McKinney, S, Alabama

The Dolphins are set at corner with Xavien Howard and Byron Jones, but they have a major secondary void at free safety after cutting Reshad Jones. McKinney (6-0, 201 pounds) is a complete safety who can get physical in run support and also drop back and handle intermediate coverage. There is nothing he can't do, and he is willing to do whatever asked of him for a defense, toggling seamlessly from extra linebacker to short-area subpackage back.

19. Las Vegas Raiders (from Bears)

Kristian Fulton, CB, LSU

The Raiders added Eli Apple, but they need someone who can actually be a top-level outside starter opposite second-year corner Trayvon Mullen. After addressing linebacker in free agency, they can turn to corner here. Fulton (6-0, 197 pounds) has the size, speed, smarts and sound coverage skills to have a long, prosperous career, which is why he felt confident enough to pull out of the Senior Bowl.

20. Jacksonville Jaguars (from Rams)

Trevon Diggs, CB, Alabama

With the extra first-round pick they got by trading away Jalen Ramsey, the Jaguars need to think about replacing him and A.J. Bouye, who also was traded. Diggs offers good size (6-1, 205 pounds), strength and downfield speed. He shot up the board quickly during his big senior season (3 interceptions in 12 games).

21. Philadelphia Eagles

Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU

The Eagles took care of cornerback in free agency by trading for Darius Slay, so they can focus on wide receiver here even with Ruggs off the board. Jefferson (6-1, 202 pounds), with massive production catching passes from Joe Burrow, emerged in LSU's passing game as a quick, efficient route-runner with good hands. He also has underrated speed.

22. Minnesota Vikings (from Bills)

A.J. Terrell, CB, Clemson

The Vikings need to address cornerback early in the draft after releasing Xavier Rhodes and not re-signing Trae Waynes. Terrell (6-1, 195 pounds) is a versatile cover man for his size who can work both outside and inside, in both man and zone schemes. He needs to learn to win battles with better technique and handwork.

23. New England Patriots

K'Lavon Chaisson, EDGE/OLB, LSU

Linebacker, especially one who can get to the quarterback, is a massive need for the Patriots after they lost Kyle Van Noy, Jamie Collins and Elandon Roberts in free agency. Chaisson (6-3, 254 pounds) has a great name for an elite, active defender who chases after QBs and RBs alike. He had 6.5 sacks and 60 tackles during LSU's championship run, and like several teammates, his draft stock shot up throughout the season. He is an effective hybrid player who is ideal for Bill Belichick's scheme.

24. New Orleans Saints

Patrick Queen, LB, LSU

The Saints lost A.J. Klein in free agency, making strongside linebacker a position of need. They can stay in-state for Queen (6-0, 229 pounds), who has great range when either working downhill against the run or moving all over the field in coverage. He is relatively small but is the type of linebacker who can have a major impact from any alignment.

25. Minnesota Vikings

Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson

The Vikings should think about using the pick they got from the Stefon Diggs trade to get his replacement opposite versatile No. 1 Adam Thielen. Higgins working the perimeter would a perfect complement. The Clemson product is a dangerous, all-around playmaker who can be a force in the red zone. At 6-4, 216 pounds, he posted 59 receptions for 1,167 yards and 13 TDs in 15 games last season. He also rushed for a 36-yard score against LSU in the title game.

26. Miami Dolphins (from Texans)

De'Andre Swift, RB, Georgia

The Dolphins can finish their first-round haul by adding a running back, as Jordan Howard is more of a power complement than a feature option. Swift (5-8, 212 pounds) is capable of both getting the tough yards inside and breaking free for big plays in the open field. He also flashed as a receiver for the Bulldogs and can excel in the screen game.

27. Seattle Seahawks

Zach Baun, EDGE/OLB, Wisconsin

The Seahawks might not re-sign Jadeveon Clowney, and Ezekiel Ansah also is a free agent, leaving a void for strong all-around edge defender. Baun (6-2, 238 pounds) is a smart, motivated player who comes through with great technique against the run. He also has started to get more attention for his pass-rush repertoire and the athleticism that fuels it.

28. Baltimore Ravens

Kenneth Murray, ILB, Oklahoma

The Ravens didn't address linebacker in the first wave of free agency, and they need more speed on the second level to better handle the run and cover short-to-intermediate routes. Murray (6-2, 241 pounds) is an active, rangy playmaker who can be as effective dropping back as he is getting downhill against the run or blitzing.

29. Tennessee Titans

Josh Jones, OT, Houston

The Titans need to replace Conklin at right tackle to keep their run-blocking sturdy. Jones has terrific athleticism for his size (6-5, 319 pounds) and can support with his toughness and relentless blocking. He is a bit raw, however, as his handwork and footwork both could use refinement to maximize his natural skills.

30. Green Bay Packers

Jalen Reagor, WR, TCU

The Packers need a complementary No. 2 receiver who Aaron Rodgers can trust all over the field. Reagor is a productive, diminutive dasher who also provides some nice run-after-catch skills with quickness and toughness for his size (5-11, 206 pounds).

31. San Francisco 49ers

Ross Blacklock, DT, TCU

With the 49ers choosing to go for their wide receiver in Jeudy early, they can use their second first-rounder on someone who can help replace the production of DeForest Buckner on their interior defensive line. Blacklock (6-3, 290 pounds) has risen up boards as teams have realized he can convert his power into energy while trying to disrupt plays in the backfield.

32. Kansas City Chiefs

Jeff Gladney, CB, TCU

The Chiefs need to give cornerback first-round consideration with Kendall Fuller leaving in free agency and Bashaud Breeland still unsigned. Gladney (5-10, 191 pounds) is a good Fuller replacement because of his inside-outside versatility. He is scrappy and aggressive in making plays on the ball, with a knack of being honed in on receivers' routes.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

NATE DAVIS – USA TODAY

Last updated: March 30, 2020

1. Cincinnati Bengals

Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

The record-breaking Heisman Trophy winner still seems the obvious top pick, perhaps more so now that Tua Tagovailoa won't be able to hold the kind of workout that could convince Cincy his injured hip is sufficiently healed to make him part of the conversation. Going to the Queen City could suddenly be a rosier situation for Burrow, who'd be joining a team that was atypically active in free agency, franchised WR A.J. Green and still has QB Andy Dalton on the roster, which – assuming that remains the case – would mean the Athens, Ohio, native wouldn't need to be rushed into the lineup.

2. Washington Redskins

Chase Young, DE, Ohio State

He might also be suiting for a team that plays near his boyhood home. Many draft analysts consider Young the premier player available in 2020. He comes off a year when he broke the Buckeyes' single-season record for sacks with 16½ even though he was suspended two games for an NCAA violation. He would appear an ideal fit for a team switching back to a 4-3 front.

3. Los Angeles Chargers [Projected TRADE with Detroit Lions]

Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama

It's widely expected that the Lions will have a golden opportunity to maneuver down, likely with a team that covets Tagovailoa's services. In this scenario, that means the Bolts, who would surely need to make a bold move up from the No. 6 spot, which would enable them to jump Miami. The Chargers have a lot of key players in place but need a long-term solution under center after letting Philip Rivers leave before whiffing in the Tom Brady sweepstakes. Coach Anthony Lynn and GM Tom Telesco seem comfortable with Tyrod Taylor, who will be 31 in August, as the starter in 2020, the veteran's final year under contract. Such an arrangement would permit Tagovailoa a season to heal, if needed, before taking over a potential contender. Two years ago, the Jets and Colts swapped the third and sixth overall selections, a trade that cost New York three additional second rounders. The Chargers might be able to get this done by packaging their Round 1 pick, second-rounder (No. 37 overall) and next year's first.

4. New York Giants

Mekhi Becton, OT, Louisville

GM Dave Gettleman has openly communicated that this spot is for sale, but it won't be easy to peddle if Tagovailoa is gone. And given the need to protect second-year QB Daniel Jones while giving RB Saquon Barkley more room to run, the 6-7, 364-pound Becton seems like a suitable option anyway.

5. Cleveland Browns [Projected TRADE with Miami Dolphins]

Isaiah Simmons, LB/S, Clemson

The Chargers/Tagovailoa trade could throw a wrench into the Fins' plans given how widely they've been connected to the Alabama star. GM Chris Grier, who revealed himself as an aggressive spender in free agency, might also make Detroit a sweetheart deal for No. 3, especially considering Miami has three first-round choices. But if he has to make a Tagovailoa contingency plan, dropping down and collecting more ammo for the Dolphins' rebuild would be sensible. The Browns are exceptionally thin at linebacker after losing Joe Schobert in free agency and surrendering their first- (No. 10 overall) and second-rounder (No. 41) might just be worth the climb for a potential superstar like Simmons, the draft's most versatile defender. He can rush the passer, set an edge, roam the middle of the field and even cover the slot.

6. Detroit Lions [Projected TRADE with Los Angeles Chargers]

Derrick Brown, DT, Auburn

Despite descending three spots, Detroit still gets a premium player. And though GM Bob Quinn shored up his linebacker corps (Jamie Collins, Reggie Ragland) in free agency and offset the trade of CB Darius Slay by signing Desmond Trufant, the Lions remain perilously thin up front – even with the arrival of massive Danny Shelton. Brown can play all three downs, able to tie up blocks, rush the passer and destroy running lanes.

7. Carolina Panthers

Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State

He's clearly the top corner coming out in 2020, and there may not be a team more desperate for one than Carolina after the Panthers lost James Bradberry in free agency.

8. Arizona Cardinals

Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa

One of the combine's stars – Wirfs' broad (10-1) and vertical jumps (36½ inches) are all-time event standards for offensive linemen – this exceptional athlete would plug in nicely to an Air Raid offense designed for a quick pace. And though Wirfs clearly has the goods to play tackle, Arizona could start him inside after re-signing OTs D.J. Humphries and Marcus Gilbert.

9. Jacksonville Jaguars

C.J. Henderson, CB, Florida

It didn't take a year for the Jags to offload the once imposing corner tandem of Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye. Then their free agent deal with Darqueze Dennard fell apart. There appears to be a significant drop-off at the position after Okudah and Henderson, a gifted athlete who can guard receivers outside or in the slot.

10. Miami Dolphins [Projected TRADE with Cleveland Browns]

Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

After missing out on Tagovailoa, Miami would probably still be able to both deal down and get Herbert, who provided a great account of himself at the Senior Bowl and combine after capably leading the Ducks for four years. Ryan Fitzpatrick remains on this roster if Herbert is slow to make the NFL transition, though intelligence is one of his many great attributes.

11. New York Jets

Jedrick Wills Jr., OT, Alabama

GM Joe Douglas did his best to cobble together a passable offensive line in free agency, yet the unit still lacks a bona fide linchpin. That could be Wills, who looked after Tagovailoa's blind (right) side for the Crimson Tide.

12. Las Vegas Raiders

Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama

Even after adding Nelson Agholor, this team appears to have a bunch of No. 2 receivers. Jeudy, who's explosive (4.45 40 time at the combine), precise and productive (145 catches for 2,623 yards and 24 TDs since 2018), would fix that.

13. San Francisco 49ers (from IND)

CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma

The Niners plucked this pick after sending DT DeForest Buckner to Indy. Lamb would be a far more dynamic option than departed WR Emmanuel Sanders and, alongside super soph Deebo Samuel, would provide coach Kyle Shanahan a young and formidable 1-2 punch for years.

14. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia

With Brady now aboard, it will be incumbent on the Bucs to bolster the blocking around their prized (but ancient and immobile) quarterback.

15. Denver Broncos

Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina

Better D-line play makes OLBs Von Miller and Bradley Chubb more dangerous. Nice moves re-signing Shelby Harris and trading for Jurrell Casey, but both could be gone in a year. Kinlaw has the goods to anchor this group for a long time.

16. Philadelphia Eagles [Projected TRADE with Atlanta Falcons]

Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama

Agholor is gone, while DeSean Jackson and Alshon Jeffery are aging and unreliable physically. With sub-4.3 speed, Ruggs is an elite deep threat who opens the field the way Jackson used to – the type of player aggressive GM Howie Roseman could target ... even if it costs No. 21 and a second-rounder to move up five spots.

17. Dallas Cowboys

K'Lavon Chaisson, DE/OLB, LSU

The defection of DE Robert Quinn leaves DeMarcus Lawrence, who managed just five sacks last season, as the defense's only accomplished pass rusher. Chaisson is a bit raw but oozes potential. Still, limit him to mostly passing downs as a rookie, and he might just have double-digit sack potential while learning nuances of the position.

18. Miami Dolphins (from PIT)

Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU

Gotta start getting Herbert weapons, and Jefferson could be a capable complement to DeVante Parker.

19. Las Vegas Raiders (from CHI)

Ross Blacklock, DT, TCU

After drafting DEs Clelin Ferrell and Maxx Crosby last year, time to get a stud inside given GM Mike Mayock spent on linebackers in free agency.

20. Jacksonville Jaguars (from LAR)

Austin Jackson, OT, Southern California

The pick procured in the Ramsey trade, the Jags would be wise to upgrade their blocking after watching LT Cam Robinson struggle with injuries and performance. Jackson, who won't be 21 until May, exudes high-end potential.

21. Atlanta Falcons [Projected TRADE with Philadelphia Eagles]

Xavier McKinney, S, Alabama

Atlanta could use help at safety, where Keanu Neal is trying to return from another injury, and linebacker ... and McKinney should be able to help in either area depending on down and distance.

22. Minnesota Vikings (from BUF)

A.J. Epenesa, DE, Iowa

The Vikes picked up Buffalo's first-rounder in the deal centered on Stefon Diggs, whom they don't necessarily have to replace with this selection. Epenesa, however, might be a worthy candidate to take over as a base end now that Everson Griffen's tenure in the Twin Cities has come to an end.

23. New England Patriots

Kenneth Murray, LB Oklahoma

The void at quarterback is apparent ... unless second-year man Jarrett Stidham manages to justify the confidence his teammates seem to have that he can competently replace Brady. However the Pats also have a glaring hole at linebacker after getting raided in free agency. Rangy Murray would fill a spot and have a much quicker payoff than a developmental passer.

24. New Orleans Saints

Jordan Love, QB, Utah State

They were poised to take Patrick Mahomes three years ago and may be running out of time to slowly groom a successor – apologies, Taysom Hill – for Drew Brees. Love has some Mahomes-like traits but probably isn't ready to play at the NFL level yet.

25. Minnesota Vikings

Kristian Fulton, CB, LSU

After parting with Xavier Rhodes, Trae Waynes and Mackensie Alexander this month, Minnesota desperately needs to reload at corner.

26. Miami Dolphins (from HOU)

Josh Jones, OT, Houston

Miami obtained this pick a year ago in the Laremy Tunsil deal. Time to replace him, especially with a young quarterback likely bound for this roster.

27. Seattle Seahawks

Yetur Gross-Matos, DE, Penn State

Whether or not Clowney returns, this pass rush (NFC-low 28 sacks in 2019) needs more juice.

28. Baltimore Ravens

Patrick Queen, LB, LSU

Starting with C.J. Mosley's surprising exit a year ago, the off-ball linebacker position has been in constant flux for this team. Queen is on the small side (6-0, 229) yet in the mold of contemporary 'backers who cover receivers well and defend sideline to sideline.

29. Tennessee Titans

Trevon Diggs, CB, Alabama

With Logan Ryan unsigned, the AFC runners-up appear to need reinforcements for their nickel defense.

30. Green Bay Packers

Brandon Aiyuk, WR, Arizona State

Excellent with the ball in his hands (18.3 yards per catch last year for the Sun Devils), he might be the optimal player to supplement QB Aaron Rodgers' top target, Davante Adams, particularly when the three-time Pro Bowler is doubled.

31. New York Jets [Projected TRADE with San Francisco]

Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson

New York needs a receiver after losing Robby Anderson. The Niners, who have no picks in Rounds 2, 3 or 4, could use extra selections and might be willing to part with this one for the Jets' second-rounder (48th overall) and one of their choices in the third.

32. Kansas City Chiefs

Grant Delpit, S, LSU

You could argue for a running back (you'll notice none have been taken in this mock) given Damien Williams is entering his walk year. But Delpit, a highly regarded player who struggled with tackling and a high ankle sprain in 2019, might really blossom playing alongside Tyrann Mathieu – both wore LSU's prized No. 7. And though S Juan Thornhill was a second-rounder last year, might be some time before he's ready in the wake of January ACL surgery. DB Kendall Fuller returned to Washington, too.

2020 MOCK DRAFTS

CONOR ORR – THE MMQB

Last updated: April 7, 2020

1. Cincinnati Bengals

Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

If Tu'a Tagovailoa's hip injury didn't complicate the process, I think this would be a more interesting discussion. Burrow has the edge in accuracy, but Tagovailoa poses more threats to a defense on any given play. Burrow is built for an offense like Cincinnati has now; one that will force him to make quick and accurate decisions with the football in the face of an impending rush (the Bengals need more help up front than they can reasonably provide Burrow right away)..

2. Washington Redskins

Chase Young, EDGE, Ohio State

Absent a solid trade offer here, which I would not rule out, Young gives Washington another building block in what could turn into an elite front. Young was causing legitimate problems for the opposing defense on one out of every five plays during his final year in college, which is stunning. His pass-rush repertoire is versatile and he's fast enough to recover from trap plays that use his speed against him.

3. Detroit Lions

Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State

Let's not overthink this. The gap between Okudah and the rest of the field is wide enough to legitimize this decision. The Lions got rid of Darius Slay and Matt Patricia's defense is built on the ability to constantly complicate a quarterback's decision making through coverage. Okudah played more man coverage in college but had a nice balance of responsibility. And ... he can hit. He checks a lot of boxes for Detroit here.

4. Miami Dolphins (projected trade up, via N.Y. Giants)

Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

The Dolphins are stuffed with draft capital, including three first-round picks, two second-round picks and three fifth-round picks. They could easily afford to move up one spot to ensure that the Chargers do not do the same thing. It is more than possible that the Chargers and Dolphins both covet the same player. It would not surprise me if that player is Herbert, and not Tagovailoa. Herbert has some rough edges but his functional mobility can get him out of jams. He can sit behind Ryan Fitzpatrick for a handful of games and embrace a Chan Gailey offense that will likely expand to meet Herbert halfway from his scheme at Oregon.

5. New York Giants (projected trade down, via Miami)

Isaiah Simmons, LB, Clemson

I think Simmons is the best player for the Giants. I also think that Dave Gettleman can do better, hence the trade. Gettleman has never traded down to accumulate more assets in his career as a general manager. He's squandered draft assets and currently has Leonard Williams wrapped up on the franchise tag in order to protect himself from a disastrous trade.

If I were Gettleman, I would send a signal to ownership that I can deftly maneuver this board (unlike the last time he was in a similar power position, with the No. 2 pick in 2017). With both the Dolphins and Chargers theoretically in need of a QB sitting right behind them, plus the Raiders and Jaguars both potentially sniffing around with assets to spend, and both the Panthers and Patriots sitting out there, this is a position to wheel and deal. In the most basic sense, both the Dolphins and Chargers would want to make sure they get the quarterback they want without fear that the other would leapfrog them.

The true victory here would be nailing Simmons a few picks later with an additional high to mid-round pick in his pocket. Don't be surprised, also, if Gettleman goes the safe route and shores up his offensive line here.

6. Los Angeles Chargers

Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama

A bit of kismet for the Chargers here, who fall into the quarterback with perhaps the biggest NFL upside. The team's optimism surrounding Tyrod Taylor as a bridge starter will parlay nicely into an eventual transition of power to a big-named quarterback in a new stadium where the Chargers are trying to establish a footing. Tagovailoa adds more to the equation than any of the top three passers in this draft and will gel brilliantly with a sharp offensive mind like Anthony Lynn.

7. Carolina Panthers

Derrick Brown, DT, Auburn

Matt Rhule's first pick can significantly alter the draft from here. Brown is a safe choice and adds some pop to an increasingly punchless defense. Carolina can go a lot of directions here. They traded for Russell Okung but could always opt for a premium offensive line talent. They signed Teddy Bridgewater but could throw their hat into the ring for his eventual replacement. Brown can move across the defensive line, he makes plays behind the line of scrimmage and he logs hits on the quarterback. If Carolina is going to stay afloat in the NFC South—now the epicenter of savvy veteran quarterbacks with quick releases—Brown is good to have on board.

8. Arizona Cardinals

Mekhi Becton, OT, Louisville

Here comes the run of premium offensive tackles. I like Becton here because of his very low Pass Block Blown %, which, according to SIS, was the third-best in the country. Becton did a ton of work off play-action at Louisville and, at least from a statistical standpoint, the run game was slightly better when working to his gap. This would seem to jibe well with what Kliff Kingsbury is trying to create in Arizona and provides Kyler Murray with a little more peace of mind in the pocket. Though, selfishly, I would love to see the Cardinals go wide receiver here and help us live out our ultimate Madden Fanboy Air Raid Fantasy™.

9. Jacksonville Jaguars

Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama

Doug Marrone made one smart move this offseason: calling Jay Gruden and asking him to become his offensive coordinator. The next step is getting Gruden—and Gardner Minshew—someone to throw to. I think the value skews a bit toward the offensive line here, though the Jaguars are actually fairly well-stocked in that department. Jeudy looks every bit the star on tape and can be moved anywhere within the offense to manipulate defenses.

10. Cleveland Browns

Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia

Thomas is just an ass-kicker, straight up. The Browns are in an excellent position to fortify their offensive line after leaving it glaringly threadbare in 2019. The signing of Jack Conklin in free agency got them halfway there. Thomas gives them versatility in the running game and some clear lanes for Nick Chubb to run behind.

11. New York Jets

Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa

Joe Douglas continues the Mike Maccagnan streak of luck, having star players fall to you in the draft. Wirfs could easily be the first offensive lineman off the board, but he fits in beautifully with a Jets team that is desperate for help up front. After whiffing on Jack Conklin to begin free agency, the Jets can pair Wirfs with George Fant on the edges, and at least work their way back to replacement-level as a unit.

12. Las Vegas Raiders

CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma

It was obviously part of Jon Gruden's plan to pair Tyrell Williams with another dominant wide receiver. His choice of Antonio Brown was, unfortunately, doomed from the start. Enter Lamb, who makes more out of the catch than any receiver in the draft and finished 2019 by nabbing almost 90% of the catchable passes thrown in his direction. He is a game breaker for a Raiders team that could surprise some people in 2020.

13. Philadelphia Eagles (projected trade up, from Indianapolis via San Francisco)

Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama

With multiple fourth-round picks and some flexibility prior to that, the Eagles make an ideal trade partner for the 49ers, who could be looking to get more cracks at the top 100. The Eagles, meanwhile, may want to grab their man before the run on premium wide receiver talent dries up. Ruggs's incredible speed gives the Eagles exactly what they were missing a year ago.

14. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Jedrick Wills, OT, Alabama

Hey, Tom Brady, this is for you. Willis looks like your prototypical left tackle (or right tackle at Alabama, where a left-handed quarterback was behind center) and slides into a Buccaneers front five that is solid but needs to be pristine in order to maximize Brady's first of two years in the system. He's also well-versed. Per SIS, he split his time at Alabama between gap and zone style rushes and logged a positive EPA on run plays to his gap.

15. Denver Broncos

Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU

Hey, Drew Lock, this is for you. The Broncos made a change at offensive coordinator and spent the offseason talking about circling the wagons around their second-round quarterback, who flashed encouraging play down the stretch in 2019. Jefferson is a great route runner who lives near the first down marker and catches most everything in his radius.

16. Atlanta Falcons

Jaylon Johnson, CB, Utah

The Falcons need help in their secondary, plain and simple. Their pass rush could also use some work. Johnson was versatile in college and despite favoring zone schemes, did play a substantial amount of man defense as well. Quarterbacks mustered a measly 49.8 rating when throwing in his direction in 2019.

17. Dallas Cowboys

Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina

I could easily see Dallas padding their secondary here as well, though it's probably hard for Jerry Jones and Co. to pass up a versatile pass rusher here. The Cowboys' experimental signing of Aldon Smith shows where they are in terms of a desire to bolster the heat they get on quarterbacks. Kinlaw had 39 pressures in 2019 and was constantly in a position to alter the course of a play.

18. Miami Dolphins (from PIT)

K'Lavon Chaisson, EDGE, LSU

Should the Dolphins stay here, this has a chance to be phase two of a transformative first round. Chaisson is enticing because there is so much room to grow. If put in the structure of a Patriot-type defense, he could be brought along slowly and utilized situationally. There aren't many rushers with his skill set, and he can diversify a team's coverage scheme.

19. Las Vegas Raiders (from CHI)

C.J. Henderson, CB, Florida

A lot of options here for Oakland, including the search for more pass-rushing help, which would also make sense. Names like Yetur Gross-Matos and Terrell Lewis could also pop up here. Despite some effort in free agency, Oakland's defensive backfield still isn't maximized.

20. Jacksonville Jaguars (from LAR)

Trevon Diggs, CB, Alabama

After losing both Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye in cap-saving measures, the Jaguars would like to come out of the first round with another high-upside talent under cost control for the next four years. Diggs is aggressive, has great size and tracks the ball well on deep throws.

21. San Francisco 49ers (projected trade down, via Philadelphia)

Ross Blacklock, DT, TCU

The 49ers will either reload at wide receiver or defensive line here. Life is pretty good for Kyle Shanahan, who has one of the deepest rosters in football and a solid talent pool to pluck from in this year's draft. With Deebo Samuel emerging as a No. 1 talent, he'll need to weigh the advantages of more firepower against the benefits of stuffing the run. Blacklock, from a nose tackle position, contributed nearly a fifth of the Horned Frogs' pressure. Pretty incredible.

22. Minnesota Vikings (from BUF)

Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson

A bit of obvious plug-and-play situation here. While the Vikings haven't had the best luck with first-round wideouts of late, Higgins is an option to fill the void left behind following the Stefon Diggs trade. Minnesota could go in plenty of directions here, as the roster is looking seriously bare.

23. New England Patriots

Cole Kmet, TE, Notre Dame

How Belichickian! The entire world expects him to select a Tom Brady heir apparent and instead he takes a powerful tight end who can gobble footballs in the red zone. Kmet must improve as a run blocker in order to fit harmoniously into New England's scheme, but the Patriots have the coaching talent to make that happen. I'm clearly higher on Kmet than many; someone like LSU linebacker Patrick Queen also makes some sense here.

24. Indianapolis Colts (projected trade up, via New Orleans)

Jordan Love, QB, Utah State

The Saints need volume, the Colts need a developmental passer of the future to sit behind Philip Rivers. The Colts have two of the first 12 picks in the second round. It is hard to imagine Love slips here. There are teams interested in quarterbacks who have been lurking in the shadows at this point. Love is an exceptional player who, should he regain his 2018 form in which he was incredibly effective, can slide in when Rivers calls it quits.

25. Minnesota Vikings

Yetur Gross-Matos, EDGE, Penn State

It may take some time to break Gross-Matos into a versatile rush/coverage option for Mike Zimmer, but the tools are there.

26. Miami Dolphins (from HOU)

D'Andre Swift, RB, Georgia

The Dolphins cap off a solid first round with their quarterback of the future, a contributing edge rusher and Swift who, while entering the draft at a time when the running back position is feeling an immense squeeze, will find a home in a Dolphins offense that needs a lead back.

27. Seattle Seahawks

Josh Jones, OT, Houston

An interesting note here: Jones had a 0.0% blown pass block rate this past season. Jones also comes from a zone-heavy system that could translate more easily into Brian Schottenheimer's offense. The Seahawks need to get some young prospects into the pipeline.

28. Baltimore Ravens

Terrell Lewis, EDGE, Alabama

Smart, physical and position versatile, he would fit nicely into a Wink Martindale defense that prides itself on being hard to categorize.

29. Tennessee Titans

Austin Jackson, OT, USC

The Titans already have a Jack Conklin replacement for now in Dennis Kelly, which makes this a perfect spot for someone like Jackson. He can come in and further develop before sliding in on the right side.

30. Green Bay Packers

Laviska Shenault Jr., WR, Colorado

A pure playmaker befitting of a Packers offense that hopes to expand its repertoire in Year 2 of Matt LaFleur. Shenault is a blast to watch, piloted a WildCat look at Colorado, and is tough in traffic.

31. San Francisco 49ers

A.J. Terrell, CB, Clemson

If the 49ers stay here, it would be a good idea to start grooming some replacements for the future of this great defense.

32. Kansas City Chiefs

Patrick Queen, LB, LSU

The Super Bowl champions can layer their defense with the best player remaining at the end of Round 1.

PLAYER RANKINGS

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS (BIG BOARD)

MEL KIPER JR. – ESPN.com

Last updated: March 24, 2020

1. Chase Young, DE, Ohio State

HT: 6-foot-4 | **WT:** 264 | **Previously:** 1

Young, who finished fourth in the Heisman Trophy voting, is a dominant pass-rusher whose 16.5 sacks broke the Buckeyes' single-season record. He had a phenomenal season and is the clear top prospect in the class. The NFL loves twitchy edge rushers who can get after quarterbacks, and that's Young. He caught my eye as a true freshman in 2017, and he really came on in 2018, picking up the production with Nick Bosa sidelined; Young finished with 9.5 sacks and 14.5 total tackles for loss that season.

2. Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

HT: 6-foot-3 | **WT:** 221 | **Previously:** 2

Burrow's final line in his Heisman-winning season: 60 touchdown passes with just six interceptions while completing 76.3% of his passes. Those are unreal numbers. Oh, and he led 15-0 LSU to a national title. I don't think there's any doubt now that he has cemented his spot as the top quarterback in this draft. Burrow's improvement was one of the greatest stories of the season after he started 2019 as a fringe NFL prospect. With a great release, much better accuracy at all levels of the field and enough athleticism to maneuver the pocket to evade rushers, Burrow reminds me of Tony Romo. Coaches rave about his leadership and toughness, too.

3. Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State

HT: 6-foot-1 | **WT:** 205 | **Previously:** 4

Credit Todd McShay here: He had Okudah at No. 4 overall in his preseason rankings. When I went back through the 2018 tape, I saw why Todd was so fired up. This is a potential top-five pick with a high ceiling based on talent alone. The problem? Okudah hadn't picked off a single pass in his first two seasons for the Buckeyes. He had three interceptions in 2019, though, including two picks in a blowout of Nebraska. While Young got all of the publicity for the Ohio State defense, Okudah is a true shutdown corner. His 41-inch vertical and 4.48 40-yard dash time at the combine showed his explosive traits.

4. Isaiah Simmons, OLB, Clemson

HT: 6-foot-3 | **WT:** 238 | **Previously:** 5

Simmons is a rare athlete with the frame of a linebacker and the athleticism and top-end speed of a safety. He showed his elite traits at the combine, running a 4.39 40-yard dash, the second-fastest 40 time for a linebacker at the combine since 2006. Simmons is exactly what NFL teams look for in three-down linebackers in today's game. He has the size and speed to run sideline to sideline to chase down tailbacks, and he has the athletic ability to cover tight ends in the slot. He could even flip his hips and play some safety. He had 104 tackles, seven sacks, three interceptions and 16 total tackles for loss this past season, and he was one of the best players on the field in the loss to LSU in the national championship game.

5. Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama

HT: 6-foot-0 | **WT:** 217 | **Previously:** 3

Tagovailoa, who dislocated his right hip and suffered a posterior wall fracture in November, didn't work out at the combine, but he was supposed to throw for NFL coaches and scouts in April. That's up in the air now, in which case teams might not be able to see his progress from his injury before they use a valuable pick on him. Tagovailoa's injury history -- he dealt with ankle and knee injuries over the past two seasons -- will complicate how teams evaluate him, and while reports about his medicals have been good, each team will have its own report. As a player, Tagovailoa is a top-five talent with elite accuracy and all the physical and mental tools teams look for in a starter. But his injuries make him a wild card in this class.

6. Derrick Brown, DT, Auburn

HT: 6-foot-4 | **WT:** 326 | **Previously:** 6

I wrote about Brown early last season, when he had two sacks and a forced fumble in the Tigers' win at Texas A&M. He had another sack and a forced fumble -- plus two fumble recoveries -- in Auburn's loss at Florida. Brown took a leap in 2019, turning his traits into production, and that's what he needed to show. NFL teams want interior disruptors who can knock down quarterbacks, and Brown hasn't shown he can do that consistently just yet. He is still raw, but he has top-five talent in a massive frame.

7. Mekhi Becton, OT, Louisville

HT: 6-foot-7 | **WT:** 364 | **Previously:** 11

With long arms and a 6-foot-7 frame, Becton sticks out on tape, and he dominates at the point of attack, pushing aside pass-rushers but also showing tremendous feet for his size. He is rising after his junior season, once teams got a closer look at his tape. He showed off his athleticism at the combine, running a 5.10 40-yard dash at 364 pounds, which is a fantastic time. He could be a top-five pick.

8. Jedrick Wills, OT, Alabama

HT: 6-foot-3 | **WT:** 312 | **Previously:** 12

I had Crimson Tide left tackle Alex Leatherwood ranked higher than Wills throughout the season, but Leatherwood is headed back to school, and Wills declared for the draft. The right tackle is another rising lineman, as Wills is blessed with a great set of physical tools. He is a physical run-blocker who can shut down edge rushers or interior pressure in pass protection. Wills is another possibility as the top tackle off the board.

9. Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama

HT: 6-foot-1 | **WT:** 192 | **Previously:** 7

Jeudy is a special talent, a true No. 1 receiver the minute he gets drafted. Just watch him run past the Arkansas secondary for one of his two touchdowns in that game. He is unguardable at the college level. He finished the season with 77 catches for 1,163 yards and 10 touchdowns. I said in May that he is the most talented receiver to enter the NFL since the duo of Julio Jones and A.J. Green went in Round 1 in 2011. The Biletnikoff Award winner can run every route and has elite ball skills, and he blazed by SEC defensive backs every week.

10. Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

HT: 6-foot-6 | **WT:** 236 | **Previously:** 9

Herbert is a maddening evaluation, though overall he showed improved accuracy and better decision-making this season. He can have games in which he looks rattled (he threw two fourth-quarter interceptions in the Ducks' loss to Arizona State), but he also can take over games through his talent. As I wrote last May, he just looks like a potential No. 1 pick -- great size, a powerful arm to make every throw, limited interceptions, good athleticism. Yet, he took a step back in consistency in 2018, and that's why I thought he made a good decision to return to Oregon for his senior season. Herbert had 32 touchdown passes and five interceptions in 2019, and he showed off his athleticism with three touchdown runs in a Rose Bowl win over Wisconsin. Because of his physical tools, there will be teams that love him. But there also will be teams that stay away from him because of his inconsistent play.

11. Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa

HT: 6-foot-4 | **WT:** 320 | Previously: 15

Left tackle, right tackle -- it really doesn't matter anymore. NFL teams aren't differentiating between the value of the two positions. Teams just want good tackles, period. Wirfs, a former high school wrestling champion, plays right tackle for the Hawkeyes -- though he has had a few series on the left side -- and he just mauls defenders. Dominates them. He has incredible strength and power -- check out this video -- and he also can move his feet. At the combine, Wirfs put up a 36.5-inch vertical and ran a 4.85 40-yard dash, the fastest time by a 320-plus-pound player since at least 2006.

12. CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma

HT: 6-foot-1 | **WT:** 193 | **Previously:** 8

Lamb showed how special he can be in the Sooners' win over Texas in October, catching 10 passes for 171 yards and three touchdowns. But you should really watch the highlights, because the overall numbers don't quite capture his dominance. He had 65 catches for 1,158 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2018, and that was as the Sooners' No. 2 target. With Marquise Brown off to the NFL, Lamb was the top target for Jalen Hurts last season, averaging 21.4 yards per catch with 14 touchdowns. Lamb is an advanced route runner, has outstanding hands and can get open against any defender. He doesn't have elite speed -- he ran a 4.50 at the combine -- but he can beat cornerbacks in several different ways.

13. Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama

HT: 5-foot-11 | **WT:** 188 | **Previously:** 20

As the Crimson Tide's No. 2 receiver, Ruggs' game is all about speed, though he improved as a route runner in 2018, when he had 46 catches for 741 yards and 11 touchdowns. He averaged 18.6 yards per catch last season, and he had seven touchdowns, though he didn't get much target volume in a stacked Bama offense. Check out this route on a 74-yard TD catch on which he almost outruns the throw. I predicted he'd be the fastest prospect at the combine, and he proved that with a 4.27 40-yard dash.

14. Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina

HT: 6-foot-5 | **WT:** 324 | **Previously:** 10

With a massive frame and great athleticism for his size, Kinlaw is physically gifted. And we know NFL teams are looking for interior pass-rushers, which is what Kinlaw can provide. After putting up 4.5 sacks in 2018, he had six last season. And he is getting to quarterbacks with quickness and power. Kinlaw moves really well for his size, and he can eat up blockers in the running game. He was really good at the Senior Bowl in January.

15. Jordan Love, QB, Utah State

HT: 6-foot-4 | **WT:** 224 | **Previously:** NR

So McShay and I have a pre-draft bet on the books -- $5,000 to the Jimmy V Foundation -- on whether Herbert or Love will be picked first. I have Herbert, McShay has Love. That we're even having this conversation shows how far Love has come and what NFL scouts think of him. Let's start with the bad: 20 touchdown passes, 17 interceptions last season. But realize Love lost his top five pass-catchers from his breakout 2018 season (32 TDs, six INTs). He also had a new coaching staff. It was a struggle. The good? Just turn on the tape from the 2018 season, with Love displaying stellar traits in a 6-foot-4 frame. He also had a good week at the Senior Bowl, showing teams that he belonged. Still, Love is raw, and that's why whichever team picks him -- and it's likely to be in the top 25 picks -- needs to take its time with him and let him keep developing. He has a high ceiling.

16. K'Lavon Chaisson, OLB, LSU

HT: 6-foot-3 | **WT:** 254 | **Previously:** 21

Every year, teams covet edge rushers with projectable traits, even if they don't always produce huge numbers. That's Chaisson, who had just 6.5 sacks this past season, only 3.5 of which came in the regular season. Those high-ceiling edge rushers don't always go in the first round, of course, but you can see on tape why a team might love Chaisson's potential. He starred in the Tigers' win over Oklahoma in the College Football Playoff, picking up two sacks. It's fair to say there is risk involved; Chaisson missed most of the 2018 season with a knee injury, and he finished his LSU career with just 9.5 sacks. Again, though, this is all about upside, and this isn't a great class for elite edge rushers after Chase Young.

17. D'Andre Swift, RB, Georgia

HT: 5-foot-8 | **WT:** 212 | **Previously:** 16

Just watch Swift on this 48-yard screen. He runs through and by defenders, showing off what has scouts so excited about his potential. It starts with speed, and Swift's 4.48 at the combine was a great time for him. He also has a physical side, and he makes tacklers miss. After running for 1,049 yards as part of a rotation in 2018, Swift was the Bulldogs' clear No. 1 back this past season. He averaged 6.2 yards per carry, with eight total touchdowns. He caught 32 passes in 2018, so he is already a third-down threat. That versatility will be important for his future.

18. Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia

HT: 6-foot-5 | **WT:** 315 | **Previously:** NR

There have been some mixed opinions about Thomas over the past year, but I'm going to trust the tape. The left tackle, who started on the right side as a true freshman in 2017, is great in pass protection, showing off tremendous footwork, strong hands and excellent technique. He stones pass-rushers. And while the three-year starter tested so-so athletically at the combine, I've heard good things about Thomas' interviews with teams. This a really strong tackle class at the top.

19. CJ Henderson, CB, Florida

HT: 6-foot | **WT:** 204 | **Previously:** 18

Henderson dealt with an ankle injury this past season, sitting out a few games. He returned for the two tough matchups with Auburn and LSU, and he had three pass breakups in each of those games. Henderson is a lockdown cover corner who needs to improve on the little things to make his all-around game better. With six interceptions combined in 2017 and 2018, Henderson has tremendous ball skills, and he has the athletic traits to be a No. 1 corner in the NFL. His 4.39 40-yard dash at the combine was an outstanding time, locking in his status as the No. 2 corner in this class.

20. Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson

HT: 6-foot-3 | **WT:** 216 | **Previously:** 23

It's the size that sticks out with Higgins: He has a huge frame to create mismatches. But he also is a better-than-expected route runner, and he helped stretch the field for quarterback Trevor Lawrence. He can box out smaller cornerbacks in the red zone, and he can high-point the ball on sideline throws. Check out this catch-and-run from two seasons ago. Higgins was a touchdown machine in 2018, scoring 12 times on 59 catches. And he averaged 19.8 yards per catch on his 59 receptions last season, with 13 TDs, including three apiece against Wake Forest and in the ACC title game against Virginia.

21. Patrick Queen, ILB, LSU

HT: 6-foot | **WT:** 229 | **Previously:** 17

The more I watched LSU's defense last season, the more I liked Queen. He just constantly showed up on the film, making sure tackles and penetrating into the backfield. And he was great in the Tigers' two College Football Playoff games, with four tackles for loss and 16 total tackles. Queen is a run-and-hit middle linebacker who has some coverage skills, though he can still improve there. He'll be an instant starter as a rookie.

22. Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU

HT: 6-foot-1 | **WT:** 202 | **Previously:** NR

I picked Jefferson as my top riser from the first day of the combine, as the wideout ran a 4.43 40-yard dash and blew away my expectations. He has a chance to be a top-15 pick now. Jefferson broke out last season, catching 111 passes for 1,540 yards and 18 touchdowns in a devastating LSU passing attack. He also led the FBS in total catches and first-down receptions (66) last season. That was after just 54 catches -- and seven drops -- in 2018. He's a really good player who could play out wide or in the slot.

23. Kenneth Murray, ILB, Oklahoma

HT: 6-foot-2 | **WT:** 241 | **Previously:** 19

Murray is a chiseled specimen with great athleticism for his size. Murray can be a little stiff in coverage, but he has excellent diagnostic ability, and he flies to the football. I think he will improve in space with more reps; he was asked to be a tackling machine for the Sooners, who didn't have a ton of other defensive studs. Murray also showed that he can blitz, as he had 8.5 sacks over the past two seasons. He could be a linebacker in a 3-4 or 4-3 defense.

24. Antoine Winfield Jr., S, Minnesota

HT: 5-foot-9 | **WT:** 203 | **Previously:** NR

Winfield is small, but he is a true ball hawk who had seven interceptions last season. As I mentioned in my Mock Draft 2.0, interceptions can be misleading as a projection tool for prospects, but he also had 88 tackles, three sacks and two forced fumbles for the Golden Gophers. Apart from his small stature, Winfield also has a checkered injury history, as hamstring and foot injuries prematurely ended his 2017 and 2018 seasons. Still, the talent is too hard to ignore, and he's my new No. 1 safety in this class.

25. Cesar Ruiz, C, Michigan

HT: 6-foot-2 | **WT:** 307 | **Previously:** 24

I really like Ruiz's 2019 film, and I have a higher grade on him now than I did last year on Garrett Bradbury, the 2019 draft class' top center. Ruiz can play guard -- he started five games there for the Wolverines -- and that's why his value is so high. NFL teams love versatile interior linemen, and I could see a team drafting him to play guard.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

MEL KIPER JR. – ESPN.com

Last updated: March 24, 2020

An asterisk denotes the prospect is an underclassman:

Quarterbacks
1. Joe Burrow, LSU
2. *Tua Tagovailoa, Alabama
3. Justin Herbert, Oregon
4. *Jordan Love, Utah State
5. *Jacob Eason, Washington
6. Jalen Hurts, Oklahoma
7. *Jake Fromm, Georgia
8. Steven Montez, Colorado
9. James Morgan, Florida International
10. Nate Stanley, Iowa

Running backs
1. *D'Andre Swift, Georgia
2. *J.K. Dobbins, Ohio State
3. *Jonathan Taylor, Wisconsin
4. *Clyde Edwards-Helaire, LSU
5. Zack Moss, Utah
6. *Cam Akers, Florida State
7. *AJ Dillon, Boston College
8. Joshua Kelley, UCLA
9. Ke'Shawn Vaughn, Vanderbilt
10. *Darrynton Evans, Appalachian State

Wide receivers
1. *Jerry Jeudy, Alabama
2. *CeeDee Lamb, Oklahoma
3. *Henry Ruggs III, Alabama
4. *Tee Higgins, Clemson
5. *Justin Jefferson, LSU
6. Denzel Mims, Baylor
7. Michael Pittman Jr., USC
8. *Laviska Shenault Jr., Colorado
9. Brandon Aiyuk, Arizona State
10. Chase Claypool, Notre Dame

Tight ends
1. *Cole Kmet, Notre Dame
2. Harrison Bryant, Florida Atlantic
3. *Albert Okwuegbunam, Missouri
4. *Hunter Bryant, Washington
5. Adam Trautman, Dayton
6. *Dalton Keene, Virginia Tech
7. *Devin Asiasi, UCLA
8. Jared Pinkney, Vanderbilt
9. *Colby Parkinson, Stanford
10. Brycen Hopkins, Purdue

Offensive tackles
1. *Mekhi Becton, Louisville
2. *Jedrick Wills Jr., Alabama
3. *Tristan Wirfs, Iowa
4. *Andrew Thomas, Georgia
5. Josh Jones, Houston
6. *Ezra Cleveland, Boise State
7. *Austin Jackson, USC
8. *Isaiah Wilson, Georgia
9. Matt Peart, Connecticut
10. Tyre Phillips, Mississippi State

Guards
1. Ben Bredeson, Michigan
2. Robert Hunt, Louisiana-Lafayette
3. Logan Stenberg, Kentucky
4. Damien Lewis, LSU
5. John Simpson, Clemson
6. Jonah Jackson, Ohio State
7. *Netane Muti, Fresno State
8. *Solomon Kindley, Georgia
9. Tremayne Anchrum, Clemson
10. Shane Lemieux, Oregon

Centers
1. *Cesar Ruiz, Michigan
2. *Tyler Biadasz, Wisconsin
3. *Lloyd Cushenberry III, LSU
4. *Matt Hennessy, Temple
5. Nick Harris, Washington
6. *Keith Ismael, San Diego State
7. Darryl Williams, Mississippi State
8. Trystan Colon-Castillo, Missouri
9. Jake Hanson, Oregon
10. Cohl Cabral, Arizona State

Defensive ends
1. *Chase Young, Ohio State
2. *A.J. Epenesa, Iowa
3. *Yetur Gross-Matos, Penn State
4. Marlon Davidson, Auburn
5. Bradlee Anae, Utah
6. Alex Highsmith, Charlotte
7. Jason Strowbridge, North Carolina
8. Jonathan Greenard, Florida
9. Alton Robinson, Syracuse
10. Jabari Zuniga, Florida

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

MEL KIPER JR. – ESPN.com

Defensive tackles
1. Derrick Brown, Auburn
2. Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina
3. *Justin Madubuike, Texas A&M
4. Neville Gallimore, Oklahoma
5. *Ross Blacklock, TCU
6. *Jordan Elliott, Missouri
7. Davon Hamilton, Ohio State
8. *James Lynch, Baylor
9. McTelvin Agim, Arkansas
10. Raekwon Davis, Alabama

Inside linebackers
1. *Patrick Queen, LSU
2. *Kenneth Murray, Oklahoma
3. Jordyn Brooks, Texas Tech
4. *Jacob Phillips, LSU
5. Troy Dye, Oregon
6. Malik Harrison, Ohio State
7. Logan Wilson, Wyoming
8. Evan Weaver, California
9. Kamal Martin, Minnesota
10. Markus Bailey, Purdue

Outside linebackers
1. *Isaiah Simmons, Clemson
2. *K'Lavon Chaisson, LSU
3. Zack Baun, Wisconsin
4. *Terrell Lewis, Alabama
5. Julian Okwara, Notre Dame
6. Josh Uche, Michigan
7. Akeem Davis-Gaither, Appalachian State
8. *Curtis Weaver, Boise State
9. Anfernee Jennings, Alabama
10. *Willie Gay Jr., Mississippi State

Cornerbacks
1. *Jeff Okudah, Ohio State
2. *C.J. Henderson, Florida
3. *Noah Igbinoghene, Auburn
4. *Jaylon Johnson, Utah
5. Jeff Gladney, TCU
6. Trevon Diggs, Alabama
7. Kristian Fulton, LSU
8. *A.J. Terrell, Clemson
9. Damon Arnette, Ohio State
10. Troy Pride Jr., Notre Dame

Safeties
1. *Antoine Winfield Jr., Minnesota
2. *Xavier McKinney, Alabama
3. *Grant Delpit, LSU
4. Kyle Dugger, Lenoir-Rhyne
5. Ashtyn Davis, California
6. Jeremy Chinn, So. Illinois
7. Brandon Jones, Texas
8. Julian Blackmon, Utah
9. Terrell Burgess, Utah
10. Tanner Muse, Clemson

Punters and Kickers
1. Braden Mann, Texas A&M (P)
2. Joseph Charlton, South Carolina (P)
3. Alex Pechin, Bucknell (P)
4. *Michael Turk, Arizona State (P)
5. Tyler Bass, Georgia Southern (K)
6. Sterling Hofrichter, Syracuse (P)
7. Rodrigo Blankenship, Georgia (K)
8. Tommy Townsend, Florida (P)
9. *Arryn Siposs, Auburn (P)
10. Austin Parker, Duke (P)

Long-snappers
1. Blake Ferguson, LSU
2. Steve Wirtel, Iowa State
3. Rex Sunahara, West Virginia
4. A.J. Carty, Washington
5. Matt Beardall, Marshall

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS (BIG BOARD)

TODD McSHAY – ESPN.com

Last updated: January 15, 2020

Note: Underclassmen are marked with an asterisk, and grades are from Scouts Inc.

1. Chase Young, DE, Ohio State*

Height: 6-foot-5 | **Weight:** 265 pounds
Grade: 96 | **Previous rank:** 1

Despite missing two games, Young led the nation in sacks with 16.5, tied for fourth in tackles for loss (21.0) and ranked second in forced fumbles (six). Let those numbers sink in for a minute. He has quickness and above-average bend, and he flashes the ability to convert speed to power, though he still has room for a little improvement getting off blocks. And I currently have a higher grade on Young than I had on former Buckeyes pass-rushers Joey and Nick Bosa. He best fits as a 4-3 defensive end, but he has experience dropping into coverage and could end up converting to a 3-4 outside linebacker role. He is head and shoulders above the rest of the edge rushers in the class.

2. Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

Height: 6-4 | **Weight:** 216
Grade: 93 | **Previous rank:** 2

Burrow appeared to be a fringe NFL prospect in August but is now perhaps the No. 1 overall pick. He made quicker decisions with the football in his senior season, displaying complete control of the LSU offense and extending plays. And he has elite anticipatory accuracy throwing into tight windows, as evidenced by an FBS-best 76.3% completion percentage. His pocket presence and toughness really stand out to me. He moves around the pocket like a pro, sensing pressure and protecting the football all while keeping his eyes downfield. And when he takes a hit, he pops right back up. Burrow finished the 2019 season No. 1 in the nation in passing yards (5,671), passing touchdowns (60) and Total QBR (94.9).

3. Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama*

Height: 6-1 | **Weight:** 192
Grade: 93 | **Previous rank:** 3

Jeudy is a really fun prospect to watch. He's a truly polished route runner with soft hands, and he does an excellent job tracking the deep ball. Although he doesn't have elite size and strength, Jeudy should be an immediate impact player in the NFL. Consider that he had 77 catches for 1,163 yards and 10 touchdowns even while playing alongside other big-time playmakers. He fell short of 50 receiving yards only twice in 13 games and ended his season with a 204-yard outburst against Michigan in the Citrus Bowl.

4. Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State*

Height: 6-1 | **Weight:** 200
Grade: 93 | **Previous rank:** 4

A big, long corner, Okudah has smooth hips and quick feet. He occasionally lunges, but he also shows the ability to recover quickly in press coverage with his athleticism. He has the tools to become a No. 1 corner. I love his versatility, as he lines up on both sides and in the slot while helping out in run defense. In 14 games, Okudah hauled in three interceptions -- including a highlight-reel-worthy snag -- and he had 35 tackles, two forced fumbles and nine pass breakups.

5. Isaiah Simmons, OLB, Clemson*

Height: 6-4 | **Weight:** 225
Grade: 92 | **Previous rank:** 5

The biggest question about Simmons at this point: What position does he play at the next level? He's a bulked-up, converted safety who can play all over -- corner, safety, linebacker -- thanks to his excellent athleticism. He has smooth hips and long arms, and he is pretty talented in coverage. He did it all this season: 8.0 sacks, 102 tackles, 16 tackles for loss, 8 pass breakups, 3 interceptions and 1 forced fumble in 15 games. Simmons is exactly the type of player NFL defenses are looking for in today's game.

6. Derrick Brown, DT, Auburn

Height: 6-5 | **Weight:** 318
Grade: 92 | **Previous rank:** 7

Brown is an easy mover for his size and does a good job locating the ball. He has quick hands, though he needs to be more effective with them. Brown has some versatility but probably ends up as a 3-technique in a one-gap-heavy scheme in the NFL. He had 4.0 sacks, 2 forced fumbles, 55 tackles (12.5 for loss) and 4 pass breakups this season. Against Florida in October, the big man returned a pair of fumbles for 53 total yards -- and it would have been more had he kept his balance on one of them while breaking down the sideline.

7. Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama*

Height: 6-1 | **Weight:** 218
Grade: 91 | **Previous rank:** 12

Tagovailoa's season ended when he suffered a dislocated hip and posterior wall fracture, but he is expected to make a full recovery. NFL teams will have to take his medical concerns -- along with his prior durability concerns as a whole -- into serious consideration. But he is a special talent. The lefty has elite accuracy at all three levels, a smooth delivery, solid arm strength and excellent touch. And his anticipation and fast eyes are high end. One thing to watch post injury will be whether Tagovailoa regains his suddenness and the ability to keep his feet aligned with his eyes as he moves quickly and smoothly through his progressions. He ended his season with 2,840 passing yards, 33 touchdown passes (tied for eighth in the FBS) and only three interceptions. His 94.6 Total QBR was second in the nation, and he completed 71.4% of his passes (fifth).

8. Grant Delpit, S, LSU*

Height: 6-3 | **Weight:** 203
Grade: 91 | **Previous rank:** 6

A smooth safety, Delpit has good speed and ball skills. He shows great instincts on the back end (two interceptions and seven pass breakups), but he's inconsistent as a tackler. He had 65 tackles, including 4.5 for loss, in 2019. Delpit is really effective in an overhang position, where he can play closer to the line of scrimmage and affect the game against the run and pass.

9. CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma*

Height: 6-2 | **Weight:** 191
Grade: 91 | **Previous rank:** 8

Lamb is an above-average route runner with excellent separation skills and the ability to settle into pockets when facing zone coverage. He has some wheels to challenge vertically, the hands and body control to haul in the pass, and the instincts to create after the catch -- his 21.4 yards per catch ranked No. 3 in the country. Lamb hauled in at least one touchdown in nine of his 13 games this season, giving him 14 (tied for fifth in the FBS) with an additional rushing score, and he caught 63 passes overall for 1,327 yards (sixth). As a bonus, he can return punts.

10. 10. CJ Henderson, CB, Florida*

Height: 6-1 | **Weight:** 202
Grade: 91 | **Previous rank:** 9

Primarily an outside corner who is at his best in man-to-man coverage, Henderson possesses smooth hips and easy speed -- he doesn't stress to stay in stride with receivers going vertical. Henderson locates the ball well and displays good ball skills, breaking up 11 passes this season. Run support and physicality at the line of scrimmage are his weaknesses (only 33 tackles in nine games), but those will improve as he gets stronger.

11. Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia*

Height: 6-5 | **Weight:** 320
Grade: 90 | **Previous rank:** 10

Thomas is a powerful left tackle who will need some time to develop his hands and footwork, but you can see the strong movement and natural ability. Although he will occasionally give up some ground to bull-rushers, he shows initial pop. His game is raw, but the athleticism and potential are there.

12. K'Lavon Chaisson, DE, LSU*

Height: 6-4 | **Weight:** 250
Grade: 90 | **Previous rank:** NR

Chaisson is big, athletic and fast. His production was a bit inconsistent during the 2019 season, and he needs to add power to his game and refine countermoves. But he tallied 13.5 tackles for loss and made 60 tackles in 13 games. Chaisson was a big riser late in the season, posting 4.5 of his 6.5 sacks in his final four games.

13. Ross Blacklock, DT, TCU*

Height: 6-4 | **Weight:** 305
Grade: 90 | **Previous rank:** NR

Blacklock is one of the more underrated prospects in the country. He missed the entire 2018 season with an Achilles injury, but he returned in 2019 with 40 tackles, 3.5 sacks and nine tackles for loss. He is an athletic lineman with great size and power, and he plays with good effort.

14. Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina

Height: 6-6 | **Weight:** 310
Grade: 89 | **Previous rank:** 13

Kinlaw had six sacks in 2019. He is twitchy with a quick first step and some good initial power to walk offensive linemen back, though I think he needs to develop a better counter off his bull rush. Kinlaw has a good motor, but I would like to see a little more nastiness fighting through double-teams. He waves the white flag a bit too early. He fits best in a one-gap-heavy scheme and is at his best when active as a run defender.

15. Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama*

Height: 6-0 | **Weight:** 190
Grade: 89 | **Previous rank:** 14

Ruggs is a burner who explodes off the line of scrimmage and is very savvy in his route running. He isn't afraid to work the middle of the field, but Ruggs needs to build some strength to generate better late separation. Thanks to that elite speed and some crisp cutting ability, he is a real threat to opposing defensive backs. Despite four games of fewer than 35 receiving yards this season, Ruggs had seven touchdowns and 746 yards while averaging 18.6 yards per catch.

16. D'Andre Swift, RB, Georgia*

Height: 5-9 | **Weight:** 215
Grade: 89 | **Previous rank:** 21

His game is all about explosion. He's a one-cut-and-go type who just explodes through the line of scrimmage, rushing for 1,218 yards and seven touchdowns this season. But Swift also has good hands and can run routes as a pass-catcher (24 receptions for 216 yards and a score), which is unusual for a college running back. He is well-built with good strength, and if he gets going, he can be a real problem for opponents. However, he dances a little too much sometimes and gets into trouble.

17. Noah Igbinoghene, CB, Auburn*

Height: 5-11 | **Weight:** 200
Grade: 89 | **Previous rank:** NR

Igbinoghene is a long and instinctive corner, and he displays great speed for his size. He made 42 tackles and broke up seven passes in 2019, though he did not have an interception.

18. Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

Height: 6-6 | **Weight:** 237
Grade: 88 | **Previous rank:** 17

The big quarterback has a huge arm and good mobility, and in that regard he reminds me a little of the Bills' Josh Allen. There's a whole lot of ability there, but Herbert needs to iron out some decision-making issues. Establishing consistency in his game was a real problem this season, and the more tape I watch, the more it concerns me. He threw for 3,471 yards, 32 scores -- tied for 11th in FBS -- and only six interceptions.

19. Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU*

Height: 6-3 | **Weight:** 192
Grade: 88 | **Previous rank:** 16

Jefferson established himself as Burrow's go-to guy in the passing game, racking up 1,540 yards (third in the FBS) and 18 touchdowns (second) on 111 catches (tied for first). In the Tigers' two playoff games alone, he caught 23 balls for 333 yards and four scores. Jefferson doesn't have elite physical tools, but he has good size and speed, and he will continue getting bigger and stronger. I really like the way he adjusts his routes, coming back to his quarterback on scrambles and finding windows in zone coverage. He has the ability to generate late separation and make contested catches.

20. Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson*

Height: 6-4 | **Weight:** 205
Grade: 88 | **Previous rank:** 18

I like Higgins' game a lot. He's an athletic playmaker who will catch anything in his neighborhood, as shown by his 59 catches for 1,167 yards and 13 touchdowns (tied for seventh in the FBS) this season. His 19.8 yards per catch tied for seventh in the country. Higgins doesn't have elite speed and still has some work to do getting off press coverage, but he has tremendous size. And he can make guys miss with his strength. If you need an example, just rewatch his rushing score in the national title game.

21. Curtis Weaver, DE, Boise State*

Height: 6-3 | **Weight:** 265
Grade: 88 | **Previous rank:** 15

Weaver uses his power to be effective as a pass-rusher. He extends his arms against tackles to find the quarterback. That ability shows up on the stat sheet, as he had 13.5 sacks this season in 14 contests, tied for fifth in the nation. Weaver also has the ability to make plays in the backfield as a run defender and can set the edge when his technique is sound. But there's some room for improvement when it comes to getting off his blocks.

22. Xavier McKinney, S, Alabama*

Height: 6-1 | **Weight:** 200
Grade: 87 | **Previous rank:** 22

McKinney is a real leader on defense, getting teammates lined up in the right scheme and then playing hard and showing toughness on every snap. In 13 games, McKinney had 3 sacks, 4 forced fumbles (tied for fifth in the nation), 3 interceptions, 5 passes broken up and 95 tackles. He shows really good range in coverage and fills alleys in the run game.

23. Jedrick Wills Jr., OT, Alabama*

Height: 6-5 | **Weight:** 320
Grade: 87 | **Previous rank:** NR

The Crimson Tide's right tackle had a huge 2019 season, outplaying Alex Leatherwood for most of the year. Wills has good 6-foot-5, 320-pound size and is strong at the point of attack, though his mobility is limited. He displays a good base and anchor, and he is a really nasty finisher. Wills projects as a right tackle or guard in the NFL.

24. Laviska Shenault Jr., WR, Colorado*

Height: 6-2 | **Weight:** 220
Grade: 87 | **Previous rank:** 19

This guy is a real weapon for any offense. Shenault can play any receiver position and is terrific with the ball in his hands. Don't expect him to run a normal route tree, instead snagging a lot of short catches underneath, but he is good on contested balls, and his ability to create after the catch stands out as a plus trait. Shenault will need some time to develop and learn effective deep routes, but his short-area quickness is something else. He had 56 catches for 764 yards and 23 carries for 161 yards in 11 games, and he had six total touchdowns.

25. Raekwon Davis, DT, Alabama

Height: 6-7 | **Weight:** 312
Grade: 87 | **Previous rank:** 20

Davis flashes the ability to jar offensive linemen with initial contact and frequently gets pressure when turned loose. He lacks some body control and can be slow to redirect, which leads to some sacks being left on the field (just 0.5 in 12 games this season), but he is stout enough to control single blocks when he keeps his pad level low enough. He is highly gifted and scheme-versatile, but discipline will be a concern for scouts. Davis had 47 tackles this season.

26. J.K. Dobbins, RB, Ohio State*

Height: 5-10 | **Weight:** 217
Grade: 86 | **Previous rank:** 24

Dobbins has above-average balance and core strength. He shows average quickness through the hole and builds to above-average playing speed. Dobbins is a little tight and isn't an ankle-breaker in space, but he's shifty between the tackles. As a pass-catcher, he flashes soft hands and is efficient after the catch. Dobbins was tied for third in the nation in rushing yards (2,003) with a 6.7-per-carry clip, and he ran it into the end zone 21 times (tied for third).

27. Kristian Fulton, CB, LSU

Height: 6-0 | **Weight:** 200
Grade: 86 | **Previous rank:** 25

I really like the way Fulton makes "splash" plays. He has really good ball skills and stops and starts so quickly, despite average straight-line speed. He bats balls and shows good instincts in coverage. Now Fulton needs to get a bit stronger, as bigger receivers can push him around at times. Scouts will also be mindful of off-field concerns; the corner was suspended for the 2017 season after allegedly tampering with a drug test. Although he had just one interception in 2019, he broke up 14 passes (tied for eighth in the country).

28. Jake Fromm, QB, Georgia*

Height: 6-2 | **Weight:** 220
Grade: 86 | **Previous rank:** 27

There's a reason talented quarterbacks such as Justin Fields and Jacob Eason kept transferring out of Georgia. Though he is the least physically gifted of the top five quarterbacks in the class, Fromm is the type of QB who will always find a way to win and excel with high-end football intelligence. He is an elite competitor, a tough kid and a real grinder. Fromm doesn't have a big arm, but he knows when to take a shot. And he possesses really good accuracy, layering the ball on short-to-intermediate throws with good release, trajectory and touch. His ability to time and place back-shoulder throws stands out. Fromm had 2,860 passing yards, 24 touchdowns, 5 interceptions and a 76.6 Total QBR this season.

29. Brandon Aiyuk, WR, Arizona State

Height: 6-1 | **Weight:** 206
Grade: 86 | **Previous rank:** 23

His 65 catches for 1,192 yards (15th in the nation) and eight touchdowns had Aiyuk turning heads. The big receiver comes with great versatility, lining up in the slot and on the outside. Aiyuk has been really good after the reception, aiding his 18.3 yards per catch, and he has certainly developed as a route runner. He has pretty good speed, which shows in his explosive return game -- he had 446 kickoff return yards and 226 more returning punts.

30. Kenneth Murray, ILB, Oklahoma*

Height: 6-2 | **Weight:** 234
Grade: 86 | **Previous rank:** NR

Murray has elite straight-line speed and shows high-end closing burst. He plays with great effort and is a really strong tackler, as evidenced by his 102 tackles, 17 tackles for loss (tied for 19th in the country) and four sacks this season. However, Murray lacks the man-to-man coverage skills you'd want to see from an insider linebacker in the NFL.

31. Jacob Eason, QB, Washington*

Height: 6-6 | **Weight:** 227
Grade: 85 | **Previous rank:** 28

Eason has a big, strong frame and an even bigger arm. I saw better timing and anticipation on his throws this season. Eason had 3,132 passing yards, 23 touchdowns and eight interceptions. Game experience is a concern. Although he played in 13 games for Georgia in 2016, he threw just seven passes during the 2017 season before redshirting when he transferred to Washington in 2018. But he has high-level natural tools, including some good mobility for a quarterback with his size.

32. A.J. Epenesa, DE, Iowa*

Height: 6-6 | **Weight:** 280
Grade: 85 | **Previous rank:** 31

Epenesa is an active hand fighter and displays good effort when rushing the passer, getting his arms in passing lanes. He has the strength -- and size -- to set the edge against the run when he needs to. But Epenesa lacks lower-body flexibility and closing speed, and he still needs a little improvement getting off blocks. He produced 11.5 sacks (tied for 11th in the FBS) and four forced fumbles (tied for fifth) in 2019, and he's been on a tear to close the season, with 8.0 sacks in his final five games.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
Chase Young*	DE	6'4⅞"	264	Ohio State	95	1
Joe Burrow	QB	6'3½"	221	LSU	94	2
Jeff Okudah*	CB	6'1⅛"	205	Ohio State	94	3
Derrick Brown	DT	6'4⅝"	326	Auburn	94	4
Isaiah Simmons*	OLB	6'3⅝"	238	Clemson	94	5
Jerry Jeudy*	WR	6'1"	193	Alabama	94	6
Tua Tagovailoa*	QB	6'0"	217	Alabama	93	7
Jedrick Wills Jr.*	OT	6'4¼"	312	Alabama	93	8
Javon Kinlaw	DT	6'5⅛"	324	South Carolina	92	9
CeeDee Lamb*	WR	6'1⅝"	198	Oklahoma	92	10
Andrew Thomas*	OT	6'5⅛"	315	Georgia	92	11
Henry Ruggs III*	WR	5'11"	188	Alabama	92	12
Xavier McKinney*	S	6'0⅜"	201	Alabama	91	13
Tristan Wirfs*	OT	6'4⅞"	320	Iowa	91	14
CJ Henderson*	CB	6'0¾"	204	Florida	91	15
Mekhi Becton*	OT	6'7⅜"	364	Louisville	91	16
D'Andre Swift*	RB	5'8¼"	212	Georgia	91	17
Justin Jefferson*	WR	6'1¼"	202	LSU	91	18
Patrick Queen*	ILB	6'0¼"	229	LSU	90	19
Brandon Aiyuk	WR	5'11⅝"	205	Arizona State	90	20
Jordan Love*	QB	6'3¾"	224	Utah State	90	21
K'Lavon Chaisson*	DE	6'3"	254	LSU	90	22
A.J. Epenesa*	DE	6'5⅛"	275	Iowa	89	23
Yetur Gross-Matos*	DE	6'5"	266	Penn State	89	24
Kenneth Murray*	ILB	6'2½"	241	Oklahoma	89	25
Ross Blacklock*	DT	6'3⅛"	290	TCU	89	26
Justin Herbert	QB	6'6¼"	236	Oregon	89	27
J.K. Dobbins*	RB	5'9½"	209	Ohio State	89	28
Grant Delpit*	S	6'2½"	213	LSU	88	29
Jonathan Taylor*	RB	5'10¼"	226	Wisconsin	88	30
Tee Higgins*	WR	6'3⅝"	216	Clemson	88	31

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
Antoine Winfield Jr.*	S	5'9⅛"	203	Minnesota	87	32
Ezra Cleveland*	OT	6'6"	311	Boise State	87	33
Clyde Edwards-Helaire*	RB	5'7¼"	207	LSU	87	34
Trevon Diggs	CB	6'1⅜"	205	Alabama	86	35
Justin Madubuike*	DT	6'2⅝"	293	Texas A&M	86	36
Jordan Elliott*	DT	6'3⅞"	302	Missouri	86	37
Cesar Ruiz*	C	6'2¾"	307	Michigan	86	38
Zack Baun	OLB	6'2⅜"	238	Wisconsin	86	39
Austin Jackson*	OT	6'4⅞"	322	USC	86	40
Michael Pittman Jr.	WR	6'4"	223	USC	86	41
Damon Arnette	CB	5'11⅝"	195	Ohio State	85	42
Jaylon Johnson*	CB	5'11⅞"	193	Utah	85	43
Cole Kmet*	TE	6'5¾"	262	Notre Dame	85	44
Jalen Reagor*	WR	5'10⅝"	206	TCU	85	45
A.J. Terrell*	CB	6'1⅛"	195	Clemson	84	46
Marlon Davidson	DE	6'3⅜"	303	Auburn	84	47
Neville Gallimore	DT	6'2"	304	Oklahoma	84	48
Jeff Gladney	CB	5'10¼"	191	TCU	83	49
Josh Jones	OT	6'5"	319	Houston	83	50
Jake Fromm*	QB	6'1⅞"	219	Georgia	82	51
Cameron Dantzler*	CB	6'2¼"	188	Mississippi State	81	52
Jacob Eason*	QB	6'5⅞"	231	Washington	81	53
Cam Akers*	RB	5'10⅜"	217	Florida State	81	54
Kristian Fulton	CB	5'11⅝"	197	LSU	80	55
Logan Wilson	ILB	6'2⅛"	241	Wyoming	80	56
Isaiah Wilson*	OT	6'6½"	350	Georgia	80	57
Zack Moss	RB	5'9⅜"	223	Utah	80	58
James Lynch*	DE	6'3⅝"	289	Baylor	79	59
Kyle Dugger	S	6'0⅞"	217	Lenoir-Rhyne	79	60
Robert Hunt	OG	6'5⅛"	323	Louisiana	79	61
Laviska Shenault Jr.*	WR	6'0⅝"	227	Colorado	79	62

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
Julian Okwara	DE	6'4¼"	252	Notre Dame	78	63
Jeremy Chinn	S	6'3"	221	Southern Illinois	78	64
Denzel Mims	WR	6'2⅞"	207	Baylor	78	65
Chase Claypool	WR	6'4¼"	238	Notre Dame	78	66
Bryce Hall	CB	6'1¼"	202	Virginia	77	67
Adam Trautman	TE	6'5"	255	Dayton	77	68
KJ Hamler*	WR	5'9"	176	Penn State	77	69
Noah Igbinoghene*	CB	5'10⅜"	198	Auburn	76	70
Ashtyn Davis	S	6'0⅞"	202	California	75	71
Lloyd Cushenberry III*	C	6'3⅛"	312	LSU	75	72
Terrell Lewis*	OLB	6'5¼"	262	Alabama	75	73
La'Mical Perine	RB	5'10¾"	216	Florida	75	74
Troy Pride Jr.*	CB	5'11½"	193	Notre Dame	74	75
Damien Lewis	OG	6'2"	327	LSU	74	76
Troy Dye	OLB	6'3¼"	231	Oregon	74	77
Devin Duvernay	WR	5'10½"	200	Texas	74	78
Josh Uche	DE	6'1¼"	245	Michigan	73	79
Lucas Niang	OT	6'6"	315	TCU	73	80
Antonio Gandy-Golden	WR	6'4"	223	Liberty	73	81
Saahdiq Charles*	OT	6'4⅛"	321	LSU	72	82
Bradlee Anae	DE	6'3⅜"	257	Utah	71	83
Tyler Biadasz*	C	6'3⅝"	314	Wisconsin	71	84
Akeem Davis-Gaither	OLB	6'1½"	224	Appalachian State	71	85
Prince Tega Wanogho	OT	6'5"	308	Auburn	71	86
AJ Dillon*	RB	6'0⅜"	247	Boston College	71	87
Devin Asiasi*	TE	6'3"	257	UCLA	71	88
Curtis Weaver*	DE	6'2⅜"	265	Boise State	70	89
Trey Adams	OT	6'8"	318	Washington	70	90
Jalen Hurts	QB	6'1"	222	Oklahoma	70	91
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	RB	5'9⅝"	214	Vanderbilt	70	92
Albert Okwuegbunam*	TE	6'5½"	258	Missouri	70	93

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
K.J. Hill	WR	5'11⅞"	196	Ohio State	70	94
Lavert Hill	CB	5'10"	190	Michigan	69	95
Nick Coe*	DE	6'4⅝"	280	Auburn	69	96
Brandon Jones	S	5'11⅛"	198	Texas	69	97
Jason Strowbridge	DT	6'4¼"	275	North Carolina	69	98
Anfernee Jennings	OLB	6'2⅛"	256	Alabama	69	99
Collin Johnson	WR	6'5⅝"	222	Texas	69	100
A.J. Green	CB	6'1½"	202	Oklahoma State	68	101
D.J. Wonnum	DE	6'4⅝"	258	South Carolina	68	102
Raekwon Davis	DT	6'6⅛"	311	Alabama	68	103
Jonah Jackson	OG	6'3½"	306	Ohio State	68	104
Colton McKivitz	OT	6'6⅛"	306	West Virginia	68	105
Hunter Bryant*	TE	6'2¼"	248	Washington	68	106
Donovan Peoples-Jones*	WR	6'1⅝"	212	Michigan	68	107
Darnay Holmes*	CB	5'9¾"	195	UCLA	67	108
Kenny Willekes	DE	6'3½"	264	Michigan State	67	109
Geno Stone*	S	5'10⅜"	207	Iowa	67	110
Khaleke Hudson	OLB	5'11"	224	Michigan	67	111
Terence Steele	OT	6'5⅞"	312	Texas Tech	67	112
Van Jefferson	WR	6'1½"	200	Florida	67	113
Amik Robertson*	CB	5'8⅜"	187	Louisiana Tech	66	114
Jabari Zuniga	DE	6'3⅜"	264	Florida	66	115
Matt Peart	OT	6'6⅝"	318	UConn	66	116
Jared Pinkney	TE	6'4"	257	Vanderbilt	66	117
Lynn Bowden Jr.*	WR	5'10⅝"	204	Kentucky	66	118
Jonathan Greenard	DE	6'3⅜"	263	Florida	65	119
Terrell Burgess	S	5'11⅜"	202	Utah	65	120
Jacob Phillips*	ILB	6'3"	229	LSU	65	121
Kalija Lipscomb	WR	5'11⅞"	207	Vanderbilt	65	122
Harrison Bryant	TE	6'4¾"	243	Florida Atlantic	64	123
Bryan Edwards	WR	6'2¾"	212	South Carolina	64	124

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
Netane Muti*	OG	6'2⅞"	315	Fresno State	63	125
Markus Bailey	ILB	6'0⅛"	235	Purdue	62	126
Keith Ismael*	C	6'2⅞"	309	San Diego State	62	127
Austin Mack	WR	6'1½"	208	Ohio State	62	128
Quartney Davis*	WR	6'1¼"	201	Texas A&M	62	129
Stanford Samuels III*	CB	6'1"	187	Florida State	61	130
Tanner Muse	S	6'2"	227	Clemson	61	131
Rashard Lawrence	DT	6'2"	308	LSU	61	132
Jack Driscoll	OG	6'4⅝"	306	Auburn	61	133
Salvon Ahmed*	RB	5'10⅞"	197	Washington	61	134
Joe Reed	WR	6'0½"	224	Virginia	61	135
Isaiah Hodgins*	WR	6'3⅝"	210	Oregon State	61	136
Essang Bassey	CB	5'9⅜"	191	Wake Forest	60	137
Darrell Taylor	DE	6'3⅝"	267	Tennessee	60	138
Alohi Gilman*	S	5'10½"	201	Notre Dame	60	139
Davon Hamilton	DT	6'3¾"	320	Ohio State	60	140
Matt Hennessy	C	6'3⅞"	307	Temple	60	141
Logan Stenberg	OG	6'6"	317	Kentucky	60	142
Colby Parkinson*	TE	6'7¼"	252	Stanford	60	143
Quez Watkins*	WR	6'0⅛"	185	Southern Mississippi	60	144
Kindle Vildor	CB	5'9⅞"	191	Georgia Southern	59	145
Nick Harris	C	6'0⅞"	302	Washington	59	146
Malik Harrison	OLB	6'2⅝"	247	Ohio State	59	147
Anthony McFarland Jr.*	RB	5'8⅛"	208	Maryland	59	148
Josiah Scott*	CB	5'9¼"	185	Michigan State	58	149
Khalid Kareem	DE	6'3¾"	268	Notre Dame	58	150

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

Grading Scale

90-100 Rare Prospect
Player demonstrates rare abilities and can create mismatches that have an obvious impact on the game. Is a premier college player that has all the skill to take over a game and play at a championship level. He rates in the top 5 players in the nation at his position and is considered a first round draft prospect.

80-89 Outstanding Prospect
Player has abilities to create mismatches versus most opponents in the NFL. A feature player that has an impact on the outcome of the game. Cannot be shut down by a single player and plays on a consistent level week in and week out. He rates in the top 10 at his position and is considered a second round draft prospect.

70-79 Solid Prospect
Still a standout player at the college level that is close to being an elite player. He has no glaring weaknesses and will usually win his individual matchups, but does not dominate in every game, especially when matched up against the top players in the country. He will usually rate in the top third of players at his position and is considered a third round draft prospect.

60-69 Good Prospect
This player is an good starter that will give a solid effort week in and week out, but he is overmatched versus the better players in the nation. His weaknesses will be exposed against top competition. He is usually a prospect that is missing something from his game. For example, he has the size and skills to be an outstanding prospect, but lacks the speed. He will usually rate in the top half of the players at his position and is considered a middle round draft choice.

50-59 Adequate Prospect
These are usually players that play at a high level in college, but lack some measurables or skills to play at that same level in the NFL. He may be a player that has a lot of developmental qualities, or could be a player that will contribute right away on special teams or in a situational capacity. He will usually rate in the second-third at his position and is considered a fifth round draft choice.

21-49 Borderline Draft Prospect
These are players that teams like something about, but certainly do not have the full package in terms of NFL talent. A lot of times, teams will take chances on character players or developmental type athletes with this grade. And often, these are players that come from smaller schools or did not standout at the college level. NFL teams are looking for 'diamonds in the rough' with this type of prospect. He will usually rate in the bottom third of players at his position and will be considered a late round draft choice or un-drafted free agent.

20 Free Agent Prospect
These are players that did not make our original 'evaluation list' but are prospects that need to be monitored. Especially in the pre-season, these players will fluctuate up and down depending on performance in their final year of eligibility.

10 Not a legitimate Prospect
These are players that lack NFL measurables and/or skills. They are players that we feel would not even make a solid contribution as a training camp body.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

Last updated: April 8, 2020

Up/down arrows reflect movement from the initial, pre-combine rankings.

QUARTERBACKS

RANK 1

Tua Tagovailoa

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

RANK 2

Joe Burrow

School: LSU | Year: Senior (RS)

RANK 3

Justin Herbert

School: Oregon | Year: Senior

RANK 4

Jordan Love

School: Utah State | Year: Junior (RS)

RANK 5

Jalen Hurts

School: Oklahoma | Year: Senior

The rapid ascension of Patrick Mahomes, Lamar Jackson and a handful of other young quarterbacks has caused a seismic shift in how coaches and scouts are evaluating the position. Instead of playing the waiting game with a young QB1, teams are creating offenses around their gunslingers and enabling them to play through their mistakes. Tagovailoa is the most talented QB1 in the class, with a game that makes him feel like a left-handed version of Drew Brees. Despite an injury history that could make some decision-makers pause, Tagovailoa's A+ arm talent, athleticism and intangibles make him an intriguing option as a franchise quarterback. Burrow is coming off the best season by a quarterback in college football history. He is a high-IQ playmaker with outstanding rhythm as a passer. He throws with superb touch, timing and anticipation, and also flashes impressive movement skills as a runner. Herbert is a bit of a polarizing prospect due to his exceptional physical tools but inconsistent production. However, he showed impressive poise and playmaking ability down the stretch and continued to dazzle in the Senior Bowl. If a team is willing to gamble on Herbert's upside, it could land a Pro Bowl-caliber QB1. Love is arguably the most talented passer in the class, but inconsistencies in his game have led some to label him a "boom or bust" prospect. Although some scouts view him as a Patrick Mahomes-like playmaker with exceptional arm talent and improvisational skills, others are troubled by his turnover woes and suspect decisions. Hurts has steadily climbed up the charts since the end of a spectacular campaign at Oklahoma. The Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year has wowed scouts with his intelligence, leadership ability and athleticism while displaying improved passing skills from the pocket.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

RUNNING BACKS

RANK 1

D'Andre Swift

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

RANK 2

J.K. Dobbins

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

RANK 3

Cam Akers

School: Florida State | Year: Junior

RANK 4

Jonathan Taylor

School: Wisconsin | Year: Junior

RANK 5

Clyde Edwards-Helaire

School: LSU | Year: Junior

The devaluation of the position could prompt several teams to hold off on selecting a back early, but the 2020 class is littered with exceptional talents possessing RB1 potential. Swift is the headliner, with an electric game that could make him a Day 1 starter. The Georgia standout is a three-down threat with a slippery running style and soft hands that make him a dangerous weapon in an offense designed to get the ball to him on the perimeter. Dobbins might be the most slept-on running back in the class despite his gaudy accomplishments. The compact runner exhibits the strength, power and explosiveness that coaches covet in an RB1, while also displaying the stamina and endurance to carry the load as a workhorse. Akers is a wild-card playmaker with a combination of skills that are tailor-made for the NFL game. He is shifty and explosive with enough pop to thrive as a workhorse in a power-based offense. Taylor's strong performance at the NFL Scouting Combine erased evaluators' concerns regarding his speed and pass-catching skills. With an impressive on-field resume that includes back-to-back 2,000-yard rushing seasons, Taylor checks off all of the boxes as an RB1 prospect. Edwards-Helaire is an intriguing RB1 option as a physical runner with outstanding pass-catching skills. Although he might lack elite top-end speed, the LSU product has a well-rounded game.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

WIDE RECEIVERS

RANK 1

Jerry Jeudy

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

RANK 2

CeeDee Lamb

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

RANK 3

Henry Ruggs III

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

RANK 4

Justin Jefferson

School: LSU | Year: Junior

RANK 5

Tee Higgins NR ▲

School: Clemson | Year: Junior

The 2020 wide receiver class is loaded with premier talent. There are 20-plus pass catchers with the potential to come off the board in the first three rounds, and history has shown us that future stars could hear their names called on Day 2 (see: Michael Thomas, Deebo Samuel and A.J. Brown, to name a few). Jeudy is arguably the best route runner in the class, with an assortment of slick releases and crafty maneuvers that make him a tough matchup on the perimeter. As a strong pass catcher with outstanding ball skills and running ability, the Alabama standout could follow in the footsteps of Julio Jones and Calvin Ridley to become the next Crimson Tide receiver to shine in the NFL. Lamb is dominant on the perimeter with exceptional hands and ball skills. He routinely comes down with 50-50 balls and has a knack for putting the ball in the paint. Ruggs is a speedster with exceptional stop-start quickness and burst. He is a rare vertical playmaker with the ability to also make plays as a catch-and-run specialist. Jefferson's game lacks pizzazz or sizzle, but scouts love his consistency and versatility as an inside/outside playmaker. The LSU standout not only has experience playing every receiver position, but he is a natural WR1 with the toughness, intelligence and route-running skills to thrive in any system. Higgins is one of the most polarizing prospects in this entire draft class, but there's no denying his talent as a vertical playmaker. The 6-foot-4, 216-pound pass catcher excels outside the numbers, particularly on 50-50 balls down the boundary and in the red zone.

Dropped out: Laviska Shenault, Colorado (previously No. 5).

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

TIGHT ENDS

RANK 1

Cole Kmet

School: Notre Dame | Year: Junior

RANK 2

Harrison Bryant

School: Florida Atlantic | Year: Senior

RANK 3

Adam Trautman

School: Dayton | Year: Senior (RS)

RANK 4

Hunter Bryant

School: Washington | Year: Junior

RANK 5

Albert Okwuegbunam

School: Missouri | Year: Junior (RS)

The tight end position has become a marquee spot to house explosive offensive playmakers. The trend should continue, as the 2020 class features a number of ultra-athletic pass catchers with outstanding ball skills. Kmet is a big, physical tight end with a knack for working the seams. He expands the strike zone with his size and length, giving quarterbacks a dependable red-zone option to lean on in key situations. Harrison Bryant is a fluid athlete with outstanding versatility as a "flex" tight end. He works defenders over with his superb route-running skills, and his sticky hands could make him a natural chain mover in a spread offense. Trautman is a classic "Y" with the size, length and athleticism to give defenses problems. He has the capacity to own edge defenders in the run game while also flashing the athleticism and explosiveness to win as a playmaker in the passing game. Hunter Bryant's disappointing performance at the NFL Scouting Combine has raised concerns about his impact potential as a mismatch player. Despite his craftiness as a route runner, scouts question whether he has enough quickness and explosiveness to consistently separate from top defenders at the NFL level. Okwuegbunam is an "HWS" (height/weight/speed) prospect with outstanding potential as a red-zone weapon. Although he lacks polish as a route runner and isn't the nastiest blocker, Okwuegbunam's ball skills and nose for the end zone (23 touchdowns in three seasons at Missouri) could endear him to offensive coordinators searching for a scoring threat at the position.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

RANK 1

Jedrick Wills Jr.

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

RANK 2

Tristan Wirfs

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

RANK 3

Andrew Thomas

School: Georgia | Year: Junior

RANK 4

Mekhi Becton

School: Louisville | Year: Junior

RANK 5

Austin Jackson

School: USC | Year: Junior

Teams looking for edge protectors are in luck, based on the depth and talent included in the 2020 class. Wills jumps to the front of the line as a dancing bear with light feet and quick hands. He checks all of the boxes as a rock-solid blocker on the ground and fortress in pass protection. Wirfs is a talented technician with great hands and feet. He easily seals the edge on outside runs while also displaying the athleticism, balance and body control to dominate defenders on climbs to the second level. Thomas flies under the radar despite displaying a rock-solid game that should make him a 10-year starter as a pro. The Georgia standout possesses the size, length and quick feet to dominate on the edges. Becton is an impressive, big-bodied athlete with outstanding balance and body control. He is an exceptional shadow boxer in pass pro, and also flashes a consistent game as a run blocker. Jackson is a talented edge blocker with outstanding movement skills. He bounced back from a medical procedure last summer -- Jackson donated bone marrow to his sister, who suffers from a rare genetic disorder -- to have a solid final season at USC. Scouts believe he is just scratching the surface on his potential.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

GUARDS/CENTERS

RANK 1

Lloyd Cushenberry

School: LSU | Year: Junior (RS)

RANK 2

Cesar Ruiz 1▲

School: Michigan | Year: Junior

RANK 3

Matt Hennessy 1▲

School: Temple | Year: Junior (RS)

RANK 4

Tyler Biadasz 2▼

School: Wisconsin | Year: Junior (RS)

RANK 5

Netane Muti

School: Fresno State | Year: Junior (RS)

The interior blockers in the 2020 class skew heavily toward the center position at the top of the board. Teams looking for excellent communication at the pivot will find this class loaded with experienced traffic cops. Cushenberry is a tough, hard-nosed pivot with quick hands and outstanding balance. He consistently stalemates defensive tackles at the point of attack while showing good anticipation on short sets in pass protection. Ruiz is a talented interior blocker with a versatile game that suits any scheme. He moves well and flashes some strength while battling monsters at the point of attack, but needs to develop better finishing skills as a pro. Hennessy is a scrappy interior blocker with outstanding toughness and technical skills. He is at his best playing center, but has shown the capacity to excel at guard, as well. Biadasz is a rock-solid interior blocker with limited athleticism. He moves defenders off the ball in the running game, but lacks the balance and body control to be effective in space. Muti is a huge question mark, due to his extensive injury history, but he is an intriguing prospect with a combination of strength, power and athleticism that could make him a solid starter in a power-based offense.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

RANK 1

Derrick Brown

School: Auburn | Year: Senior

RANK 2

Javon Kinlaw

School: South Carolina | Year: Senior

RANK 3

Jordan Elliott

School: Missouri | Year: Junior (RS)

RANK 4

Ross Blacklock

School: TCU | Year: Junior (RS)

RANK 5

Justin Madubuike

School: Texas A&M | Year: Junior (RS)

NFL scouts hunting for disruptive interior defenders will have plenty of options to choose from in the 2020 class. Brown is an absolute beast on the interior with a combination of size, strength and explosiveness that makes him nearly impossible to neutralize at the point of attack. He throws blockers around like a bouncer at a nightclub, and his ferocity sets the tone for an edgy defense. Kinlaw's size and natural talents scream top-10 potential with evaluators searching for the next Chris Jones. Although the South Carolina standout is capable of playing anywhere along a three-man front, he could be ideally suited to dominate as a three- or five-technique in a 3-4 scheme. Elliott has flown under the radar, but scouts rave about his athleticism, initial quickness and hand skills. If a good coach can help him put it together, he could blossom into a star at the next level. Blacklock is an energetic interior defender with a high-revving motor and outstanding athleticism. He gets pinballed a bit between the tackles, but his combination of quickness, athleticism and burst makes him a disruptive force on the inside. Madubuike flashes disruptive potential as an active inside defender. The Texas A &M standout is not a polished playmaker, but his energy and activity lead to splash plays in the backfield.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

EDGE

RANK 1

Chase Young

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

RANK 2

A.J. Epenesa

School: Iowa | Year: Junior

RANK 3

Yetur Gross-Matos

School: Penn State | Year: Junior

RANK 4

K'Lavon Chaisson

School: LSU | Year: Sophomore (RS)

RANK 5

Bradlee Anae

School: Utah | Year: Senior

The 2020 class of edge defenders features a number of long, rangy pass rushers with explosiveness movement skills and refined technical ability. Young is a disruptive force with a combination of physical traits that could enable him to dominate the game as a Julius Peppers-like rusher off the edge. He racked up 16.5 sacks and seven forced fumbles in just 12 games last season. Epenesa is a trench warrior with outstanding hand skills and technique. He mostly relies on his strength and power to win as a pass rusher, but flashes enough quickness and athleticism to wreak havoc as a power-based edge rusher or "speed" 3-technique in sub-packages. Gross-Matos is a bit of a polarizing prospect, but he flashes traits that remind me of a young Jason Pierre-Paul. He's long, rangy and athletic with active hands and a high-revving motor. Chaisson has Pro Bowl potential as a speed rusher with exceptional movement skills and athletic traits. He creates chaos off the edges with his speed, but his sack production doesn't match his talent at this stage of his career. Time will tell if Chaisson blossoms into an elite defender as a pro or follows the paths of previous LSU products Barkevious Mingo and Arden Key as naturally gifted underachievers at the next level. Anae is a worker bee off the edges with a non-stop motor and relentless competitive spirit that overwhelm offensive tackles. He combines his high-effort approach with cat-like initial quickness and a closing burst that helps him rack up sacks on an assortment of speed moves.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

LINEBACKERS

RANK 1

Isaiah Simmons

School: Clemson | Year: Junior (RS)

RANK 2

Zack Baun

School: Wisconsin | Year: Senior (RS)

RANK 3

Kenneth Murray

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior

RANK 4

Patrick Queen

School: LSU | Year: Junior

RANK 5

Akeem Davis-Gaither

School: Appalachian State | Year: Senior

The changing nature of the NFL has prompted coaches and scouts to seek out hybrids at the linebacker position. Whether they're inside linebackers with sneaky pass-rush skills or hit, run and cover linebackers with safety-like perimeter skills, evaluators are searching high and low for difference makers on the second level. Simmons is the Swiss Army Knife of linebacker prospects in the class. The Clemson standout has the capacity to deliver game-changing plays as an edge rusher, slot defender or post safety. Baun is a rock-solid hybrid defender with a nice mix of blitz skills and coverage ability. He is not only an explosive pass rusher, but also shows outstanding instincts, awareness and diagnostic skills in coverage. Murray is an instinctive playmaker with a diverse set of skills that enables him to excel on blitzes or in coverage. The Oklahoma product has speed to burn and his athleticism could make him a star in a scheme that allows him to hit, run and cover on the second level. Queen is a spectacular athlete with great potential. He started to put it together during the second half of the 2019 season, but his game could really pop at the next level with time and development. Davis-Gaither is a sideline-to-sideline playmaker with outstanding instincts and awareness. He's shown his versatility by tallying 6.5 sacks and 15 pass breakups over the past two seasons.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

CORNERBACKS

RANK 1

Jeff Okudah

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior

RANK 2

C.J. Henderson

School: Florida | Year: Junior

RANK 3

A.J. Terrell 1▲

School: Clemson | Year: Junior

RANK 4

Trevon Diggs 1▼

School: Alabama | Year: Senior

RANK 5

Kristian Fulton

School: LSU | Year: Senior

The 2020 cornerback class is all about length, athleticism and explosiveness. Teams looking for cover guys to handle the basketball-style pass catchers should be able to find a six-footer at corner to match up on the perimeter. Okudah is an explosive athlete with a blue-collar game that makes him a worthy of consideration as a potential top-five pick. The Ohio State product has drawn comparisons to reigning Defensive Player of the Year Stephon Gilmore, but Okudah has more speed and athleticism. Henderson has shutdown-corner potential with a terrific combination of size, length, athleticism and skills. He is not a natural ballhawk, but his sticky coverage ability and technique versatility give him a chance to shine in any system. Terrell is climbing up the charts as more coaches take a long, hard look at his game. He's an intriguing prospect with size, speed, toughness and versatility. With the Clemson standout also looking like he has the capacity to handle nickel duties, he could earn high marks in meeting rooms around the league. Diggs is a converted wide receiver with impressive length, athleticism and ball skills. He is a natural playmaker with an unrefined game that should improve quickly with more reps and experience on the island. Fulton has the ideal size and athletic traits to thrive on the island. He flashes Tier 1 talent, but consistency has been an issue.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

SAFETIES

RANK 1

Xavier McKinney

School: Alabama | Year: Junior

RANK 2

Grant Delpit

School: LSU | Year: Junior

RANK 3

Jeremy Chinn NR ▲

School: Southern Illinois | Year: Senior

RANK 4

Antoine Winfield Jr. 1 ▲

School: Minnesota | Year: Sophomore (RS)

RANK 5

Ashtyn Davis 2 ▼

School: Cal | Year: Senior (RS)

The changing job description of safeties in the modern NFL has prompted coaches and scouts to search for deep-middle defenders with the speed, athleticism and toughness to play against the run or pass. McKinney is a box-area defender with a knack for finding the action as a "see ball, get ball" playmaker. He brings toughness, tackling and range as a projected strong safety. Delpit is an athletic middle-of-the-field defender with outstanding range and awareness. However, he has shown some inconsistencies as a tackler and questions persist regarding his overall physicality/toughness. Chinn is a versatile second-level defender with the potential to thrive as a hybrid in a creative defense. The big-bodied safety brings cornerback experience to the position, while also displaying standout skills as a box defender. Winfield's fabulous performance at the combine could send his stock soaring as evaluators take a closer look at the film and factor in his pedigree. The former Minnesota standout is an active playmaker on the second level, but size could be a concern with his playing style. Davis checks off all of the boxes as a smart, fast and tough defender. He brings a high IQ and top-end speed to the position as a natural center fielder.

Dropped out: Kyle Dugger, Lenoir-Rhyne (previously No. 4).

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

Last updated: April 1, 2020

RANK 1

Chase Young, Edge

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 1

Young is a tall, long and athletic defensive end. As a pass rusher, he explodes off the ball and gains ground in a hurry. He uses a quick swipe move and also has the ability to control the wrists of blockers. He can convert speed to power and is effective on loops and games. He does have a little tightness at the top of his rush. Against the run, he sets the edge easily and uses his quickness to slip blocks and create chaos behind the line of scrimmage. Overall, Young is an All-Pro talent, reminiscent of Julius Peppers and Mario Williams.

RANK 2

Joe Burrow, QB

School: LSU | Year: Senior (RS)
Previous rank: 2

Burrow has solid size for the position and he possesses many elite qualities. He operated out of the 'gun in the LSU spread attack and he is extremely accurate, efficient and instinctive. He is very smooth in his drop and he has the ability to process through his reads at a rapid pace. He throws with anticipation and he can naturally layer the ball over and under coverage. He doesn't have top-shelf arm strength when driving the ball outside the numbers. He relies more on timing/touch. He doesn't flinch versus pressure when he sees something he likes down the field. If he needs to buy time, he can slide and climb the pocket with excellent feel/awareness. He has a nice burst when he leaves the pocket and he is more than a capable runner. Overall, Burrow lacks special arm strength, but his combination of poise, accuracy and toughness is very appealing.

RANK 3

Isaiah Simmons, LB/S

School: Clemson | Year: Junior (RS)
Previous rank: 3

Simmons is an extremely versatile, athletic defensive chess piece. He is a long, rangy athlete who lined up at linebacker, over the slot and in the deep middle for Clemson, thanks to his diverse and unique skill set. Against the pass, he has terrific range and instincts from the deep middle. He has the speed and agility to match up with top-flight tight ends and backs underneath. He is an explosive blitzer off the edge and in through the middle. Simmons overpowers running backs in protection. Against the run, he takes good angles and his speed allows him to make plays from the back side. He will struggle at times if he has to take on blocks on the edge. Overall, Simmons is built for today's NFL and his role could change week to week, depending on the opponent.

RANK 4

Derrick Brown, DT

School: Auburn | Year: Senior
Previous rank: 4

Brown has excellent size, power and athleticism for the defensive tackle position. As a pass rusher, he has a quick first step and uses his hands very effectively. He wins with a violent club/swim move, a rip move or a nifty up-and-under counter move. Against the run, he easily holds the point of attack. The Auburn product creates separation from blockers with an explosive punch, which allows him to close quickly and make plays. His effort is consistent. Overall, this is a complete player capable of dominating on all three downs. He'll be a difference maker on Day 1.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK 5

Jeff Okudah, CB

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 5

Okudah has ideal size, length, twitch and competitiveness for the position. He is very comfortable and effective in both press and off coverage. He is patient in press and very fluid/smooth when he opens up. He does a nice job of staying on top versus vertical routes and he can locate the football down the field. He has the agility to mirror underneath. In off coverage, he explodes out of his plant and he is a dependable open-field tackler. This is a very clean player with a very high floor and ceiling.

RANK 6

Tua Tagovailoa, QB

1▲

School: Alabama | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 7

Tua lacks ideal height for the position, but he has quick feet, eyes and release. He primarily operated in the 'gun at Alabama, but he did take some snaps under center. He is very crisp and urgent in his setup. He throws off a firm platform and he spins the ball really well. He always throws with the proper pace on slants and crossers. He doesn't have an overpowering arm, but he can still place balls in tight windows. He understands how to hold and manipulate safeties with his eyes. He makes good decisions in the RPO game. He is a nifty runner, but he prefers to buy time behind the line and remain in passing mode. He did struggle with identifying some underneath defenders when in the red zone. He is coming off a serious hip injury and that must be factored into his evaluation. Overall, Tua is the ultimate point guard. If he can remain healthy, he has the potential to be one of the NFL's most efficient passers.

RANK 7

Mekhi Becton, OT

1▼

School: Louisville | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 6

Becton is a massive left tackle prospect with a similar size/skill set to former first-rounder Bryant McKinnie. In pass protection, he has surprisingly nimble feet and uses his length to steer defenders. Even when he fails to land his punch, he can absorb rushers with his girth. He needs to improve his awareness versus games up front. He is a dominating run defender and collects knockdowns by the bunches. He latches on and uses his upper-body strength to torque and toss. He isn't as effective when working in space. Overall, Becton has areas to improve -- mainly balance and awareness -- but he is a rare athlete at this size and his upside is through the roof.

RANK 8

Javon Kinlaw, DT

School: South Carolina | Year: Senior
Previous rank: 8

Kinlaw is a hulking defensive tackle prospect. As a pass rusher, he has a sudden get-off and he's quick to shoot his hands and drive back blockers. He will also incorporate a push/pull move on occasion. He does need to broaden his arsenal of moves, but there is tremendous upside. Against the run, he easily locks out single blocks, but he gets washed by angle blocks and double teams. His effort is solid. Kinlaw showed out against elite competition, but he played down to the level of lesser opponents. Overall, Kinlaw's best football is in front of him and he has Pro Bowl potential.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK 9

CeeDee Lamb, WR

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 9

Lamb is a tall, lean wideout with top-tier hands, toughness and production. He lines up inside and outside. He is a smooth, fluid route runner and understands how to set up cornerbacks. He also has a good feel in zone. He attacks the ball when working back to the quarterback and tracks the ball naturally down the field. Lamb doesn't have elite speed, but he can find some extra juice when the ball is in the air. He is at his best after the catch, as he consistently breaks tackles and is also very elusive. Overall, Lamb is a polished player who is equally explosive and reliable.

RANK 10

Jedrick Wills, OT

2▲

School: Alabama | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 12

Wills lined up at right tackle for Alabama. He has average height for the position and he's carrying a little extra weight. An excellent pass protector, Wills is quick out of his stance and he's an easy mover versus speed and counters. He is a natural knee bender and he reworks his hands to maintain leverage/control. He is aware versus games and stunts. In the run game, he is at his best when working up to the second level. He also flashes the ability to roll his hips and uproot defenders over his nose. He's *never* on the ground. Overall, Wills doesn't have the ideal body type, but he has all of the necessary tools to be a 10-year starter at either tackle spot.

RANK 11

Jerry Jeudy, WR

1▼

School: Alabama | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 10

Jeudy is an elite route runner with outstanding burst, body control and awareness. He explodes off the line and uses his quickness to avoid press coverage. His snap at the top of the route is as good as any prospect in the last decade. He has the ability to make plays outside of his frame, but he will have some concentration lapses, which lead to drops. After the catch, he is very slippery and elusive, although he isn't going to break a lot of tackles. Overall, Jeudy is a loose athlete with elite route skills and he should emerge as a high-volume production guy very early in his career.

RANK 12

Henry Ruggs III, WR

1▼

School: Alabama | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 11

Ruggs has an unbelievable blend of speed and toughness. He lines up outside and in the slot. He ran a lot of slants and take-off routes in Alabama's offense -- and he was special on both. Ruggs boasts world-class speed -- he truly explodes off the line and after the catch. He needs to continue to refine his releases against press (he gives up his chest too often), but not many defenses will want to take that chance against his speed. His hands are good, not great, and he does allow too many balls into his chest. After the catch, he runs away from most defenders while occasionally running through them. He is outstanding on jet sweeps and also has kick-return value. Overall, Ruggs has Tyreek Hill-type ability. He will be a matchup nightmare every week.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK 13

Tristan Wirfs, OT

School: Iowa | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 13

Wirfs is a big, powerful offensive tackle. In pass protection, he launches out of his stance and hasn't had issues versus outside speed rushers. However, he *has* experienced issues against inside counter moves. He over-sets and struggles to redirect back inside, allowing too many pressures in the games I studied. When he can land his punch, it's over. His hands are so strong and he has the power base to end the play right there. In the run game, he is very strong and aggressive. He creates a ton of movement, but also will overextend and fall off at times. He's on the ground too much. I love his aggressive demeanor, but he needs to play more under control. Overall, I believe he can survive at tackle, but he'd benefit from playing with neighbors on both sides. I think Wirfs has All-Pro potential at guard.

RANK 14

Justin Jefferson, WR

School: LSU | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 14

Jefferson is a tall, slender wideout with off-the-charts production. He lines up in the slot and out wide. He is an outstanding route runner. He does a nice job getting on the toes of cornerbacks and then creating separation out of the break point. He does a lot of work in traffic and will extend and finish before taking hard contact. He can play above the rim down the field and can contort his body to make special catches. He doesn't have elite speed, but he's plenty fast enough. After the catch, he has some wiggle and will fight for extra yards. Overall, Jefferson is a polished receiver and should make an immediate impact at the next level.

RANK 15

Patrick Queen, LB

School: LSU | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 15

Queen is an undersized linebacker with outstanding burst, instincts and coverage ability. Against the pass, he is very fluid in his drops and his change-of-direction ability is excellent. He has good instincts to jump routes and he closes to the flat in a hurry. He is a very dynamic blitzer (see him flat-back an offensive guard in the Texas A&M game). In the run game, he is quick to key/read and shoot gaps. He does get uprooted at times because of his size, but he usually finds a way to beat blockers to spots. Overall, Queen is a high-tempo playmaker at the second level and should impact all three downs.

RANK 16

D'Andre Swift, RB

School: Georgia | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 16

Swift is a compact running back with excellent patience, vision and quickness. On inside runs, he lets things develop before exploding through the line of scrimmage. He has the vision to see and set up second- and third-level defenders. He has make-miss ability in tight quarters, but prefers to drop his shoulder and seek contact. He has enough speed to capture the corner on outside runs. He is a cradle catcher in the passing game, but it's effective. In pass protection, he likes to cut block and he's reliable. Overall, Swift has a similar skill set to **Josh Jacobs**, and I expect comparable results at the next level.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK
17

Andrew Thomas, OT

School: Georgia | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 17

Thomas is a thick, powerful offensive tackle. In pass protection, he has average foot quickness in his set, but he possesses a powerful punch and strong anchor. He gets in trouble at times because his base is too wide; he lunges and loses balance. He plays with good overall awareness. He is a dominant run blocker. He can uncoil and uproot defenders over his nose and has the strength to wash defenders down the line of scrimmage on down blocks. He is effective working up a level when he can stay on one track, but he struggles to redirect in space. Overall, some teams view Thomas as a guard, but I believe he can hold up at tackle if he improves his balance issues.

RANK
18

Kenneth Murray, LB

4 ▲

School: Oklahoma | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 22

Murray is an off-the-ball, run-and-hit linebacker. He is at his best when he's free to chase and make plays to the perimeter. He closes in a heartbeat and he is an explosive tackler. He struggles when he has to play off blocks and locate the football through the trash inside, as he doesn't use his hands and gets swallowed up. He has had some success dipping and slipping blocks. He is very athletic in coverage versus running backs, easily mirroring them in space. He is also a very dynamic blitzer. Overall, I believe Murray would be best served to play outside and off the ball, where he would be afforded clean sight lines to attack with his speed.

RANK
19

Ross Blacklock, DT

School: TCU | Year: Junior (RS)
Previous rank: 19

Blacklock is a dynamic interior defensive lineman. As a pass rusher, he launches out of his four-point stance and his bull rush is ferocious. He creates immediate knock-back. He is ultra-twitchy. He flashes a long-arm move where he can jolt, separate and finish. As a run defender, he successfully stacks and sheds single blocks, but he needs to improve his awareness and effectiveness versus double teams, where he gets washed down the line. He does have some durability concerns, but his skill set is special. Overall, Blacklock comes with some risk, but he's worth it. He has the potential to develop into a top-flight interior pass rusher.

RANK
20

Justin Herbert, QB

School: Oregon | Year: Senior
Previous rank: 20

Herbert has exceptional size, mobility and arm strength. He has quick feet in his setup and he bounces on his toes once he gets to the top of his drop. His motion can be a little robotic at times, but the ball comes out tight with high RPMs. He has a big arm but his placement is a little inconsistent. His front side flies open on some throws, impacting his accuracy. That can be corrected. He has shown the ability to touch up the ball underneath and makes some impressive throws on the run. He is a very good runner. He builds speed and he is effective on zone reads. The biggest area he needs to improve is his lack of anticipation. He waits too long to cut it loose. According to everyone at Oregon, his work ethic and character are off the charts. Overall, Herbert has some special physical tools, but he needs to play with less caution and learn to embrace an attacking mentality.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK
21

C.J. Henderson, CB

School: Florida | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 21

Henderson is an extremely explosive and athletic cornerback prospect out of Florida. He played outside and inside on the games I studied. He is very physical in press coverage, landing a two-hand jam consistently. He is extremely loose and fluid to open up and mirror all over the field. He's hardly ever out of position and possesses rare makeup speed when he is caught in a bind. You see that same burst when he's in off coverage and the ball is thrown in front. He does need to improve on finding the ball down the field, as he's often a little late to look back. The major concern with this player is tackling. He has way too many misses and that must be improved. Overall, Henderson has some elite traits and could emerge as the top cornerback in this class, but his tackling must be addressed.

RANK
22

Xavier McKinney, S

4▼

School: Alabama | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 18

McKinney was an instinctive safety for the Tide and he also spent some time playing nickel linebacker. When aligned deep, he is fluid in his movement and he's quick to key/read and drive on the football. His range is excellent. While he can effectively locate the ball, he will occasionally lose a 50/50 battle down the field. He is a dependable wrap/drag tackler. He has a very good feel as a blitzer, displaying timing and burst. Overall, McKinney is an intelligent, versatile defender and he should be very effective in multiple roles.

RANK
23

Jordan Love, QB

School: Utah State | Year: Junior (RS)
Previous rank: 23

Love has ideal size, arm strength and athletic ability. He operated out of the 'gun at Utah State and was very fluid and smooth in his setup. He throws from a variety of platforms and arm angles. The ball jumps out of his hand. He is at his best on skinny post drive throws and over-the-top deep balls. His decision making was very concerning this past season. He forced too many balls into crowds and didn't ever give up on a play -- to a fault. His supporting cast wasn't very good, but he still fell into too many bad habits. He uses his athletic ability to escape and extend plays, but there are occasions when he fails to climb and reset his feet. Overall, Love is a raw prospect who will need some time to develop. There is risk with him, but the payoff could be huge.

RANK
24

Brandon Aiyuk, WR

3▲

School: Arizona State | Year: Senior
Previous rank: 27

Aiyuk is one of my favorite players in the draft class. He has a solid, muscular frame and plays an aggressive brand of football. He is explosive in his release and he attacks the leverage of cornerbacks before suddenly snapping off his route. Aiyuk doesn't run a wide variety of routes, but he's very efficient and effective. He has strong hands and can finish in traffic. He is at his best after the catch, breaking tackles and making people miss without gearing down. Those skills serve him well as a returner, too. Overall, Aiyuk will need a little time to develop as a complete route runner, but he's a tough, explosive playmaker with added special teams value.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK 25

K'Lavon Chaisson, Edge

School: LSU | Year: Sophomore (RS)
Previous rank: 25

Chaisson primarily lined up as a stand-up rusher in the Tigers' defensive system. He is long, explosive and very athletic. As a pass rusher, he relies more on pure get-off speed and athletic ability than technical skill. He is at his best as a looper, where he can find a crease and explode through. He has yet to figure out how to use his length to his advantage on a consistent basis. Against the run, he flashes the ability to stack and hold the point, but he excels at slipping blocks and creating havoc. His speed and effort show up on the back side of plays. Overall, Chaisson is more athlete than football player right now, but he has all of the raw tools to be a dominant force at the next level.

RANK 26

A.J. Epenesa, Edge

2▼

School: Iowa | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 24

Epenesa is a skilled pass rusher with outstanding size, strength and effort. He has average get-off quickness, but he boasts strong hands, can flip his hips and is a reliable finisher. He has a variety of hand techniques, including a violent club move, swipe move and a push/pull move. He also will flash a long-arm move with his inside arm. He has a great feel when an OT is leaning outside, which creates an opening for his up-and-under inside-counter move. Against the run, he can hold the point of attack easily. His effort on the back side is outstanding, but he lacks the burst to make a ton of plays from distance. Overall, Epenesa has a very high floor as a prospect. He should be a consistent 8-to-10-sack performer at the very least.

RANK 27

Tee Higgins, WR

1▲

School: Clemson | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 28

Higgins is a tall, long and rangy wideout with elite high-point skills. He uses a quick foot fire to defeat press coverage. He is a smooth, long-striding route runner. He is at his best when on the move: slants, posts and go routes. He lacks snap at the top of his route when working back downhill. He has incredible ball skills down the field. He can elevate and also adjust to the back-shoulder ball. After the catch, he is very smooth and slippery. Overall, Higgins isn't going to do a lot of the dirty work in the middle of the field, but he's very effective on the outside and provides big-play ability.

RANK 28

Austin Jackson, OT

2▼

School: USC | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 26

Jackson brings an intriguing blend of size, athleticism and upside. In the passing game, he has the quickness to easily cut off speed rushers and he plays with good knee bend and balance. He needs to improve on his punch, as he's often late to shoot his hands and gives up his chest, leaving him vulnerable to the bull rush. He flashes the ability to settle down after giving ground, but this needs to improve. In the run game, he has the quickness to reach/cut off on the back side and he does a good job of staying attached on the front side. His overall play strength needs to improve, but he's only 20 years old and that should come in time. Jackson isn't ready to play at a high level right away, but the upside is tantalizing.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK
29

Jaylon Johnson, CB

School: Utah | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 29

Johnson offers an enticing size/speed combination for the position. He plays a lot of press-bail technique, but also flashes a firm two-hand jam. He is very fluid to open up and has plenty of long speed to carry vertical routes. He also excels when he slides inside to cover the slot. He was rarely challenged down the field in the games I studied. His ball production was outstanding in 2018 and opposing teams chose to avoid him last fall. He is very aggressive versus the run. He closes quickly before coming to balance and delivering firm tackles. Overall, Johnson is very talented and should be a Day 1 starter outside with the potential to cover in the slot as well.

RANK
30

Yetur Gross-Matos, Edge

1▲

School: Penn State | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 31

Gross-Matos was a tall, long edge rusher for the Nittany **Lions**. He will stand up on the edge or launch out of his four-point stance. He is a very productive pass rusher. He doesn't have an elite get-off, but he has very active hands and an array of moves. He has a quick swipe move, inside spin and he can also bend/wrap at the top of his rush. I'd like to see him develop more power, but he still has a lot to work with. He is very effective on loops and games. He does need to improve versus the run, as he sometimes plays too high and gets uprooted. Overall, Gross-Matos offers double-digit sack potential, but he does need to add strength at the next level.

RANK
31

A.J. Terrell, CB

1▲

School: Clemson | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 32

Terrell is a tall, slender cornerback prospect with a strong resume in a variety of coverages and techniques. In press coverage, he uses an effective one-hand jam before turning and opening up. He can carry vertical routes with his speed, but he is a little bit sticky when he's forced to gear down and come back downhill. In off coverage, he has a quick pedal, but there is a brief pause in his plant/drive. He has very good ball awareness down the field. He is a reliable tackler and an outstanding blitzer from the boundary corner spot. He had a rough outing against LSU in the national title game, but was otherwise very steady last season. Overall, Terrell has some tightness, but he's a very solid player who should emerge as a quality No. 2 cornerback for his drafting team.

RANK
32

Clyde Edwards-Helaire, RB

2▼

School: LSU | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 30

Edwards-Helaire is a short, compact runner with quick feet, power and prowess in the passing game. On inside runs, he's a quick-stepper with darting lateral agility to slide and avoid contact. He runs extremely low to the ground and is tough for opponents to square up. He drives his legs on contact and pulls out of a lot of tackles. He is quick to capture the perimeter and refuses to run out of bounds, choosing instead to fight for extra yards. He is outstanding in the passing game. He can line up anywhere in the formation and he runs clean/crisp routes. He catches the ball outside his frame very smoothly and he's outstanding after the catch. His ability to start/stop in space is elite. He is rarely used in pass protection because of his value out in the route. Overall, Edwards-Helaire has a very similar skill set to **Austin Ekeler** -- I envision a similar role/results at the next level.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK
33

Zack Baun, LB

5 ▲

School: Wisconsin | Year: Senior (RS)
Previous rank: 38

Baun is a slightly undersized outside linebacker with excellent athleticism and versatility. He spends a lot of time playing over tight ends and gets the best of them in the run and pass games. As a rusher, he has a good initial burst and can really bend at the top of his rush. He has a nifty inside counter move and he can get skinny before closing on the quarterback. He mixes in a stutter/bull rush, but usually stalls out after generating some push. He is very athletic as a dropper in coverage. He is very good as a back-side run defender because of his burst and effort. Teams will differ on where to play him at the next level. He reminds me of former USC LB **Uchenna Nwosu**, someone whose versatility the **Chargers** have tapped into. I'd do the same with Baun.

RANK
34

Marlon Davidson, Edge

School: Auburn | Year: Senior
Previous rank: 34

Davidson has average height and a thick/square build. He typically lined up at defensive end for the Tigers, but also possesses the ability to slide inside. As a pass rusher, he is devastating when he has a runway. He generates a lot of power in his bull rush and has an array of hand moves he can incorporate on the move. He doesn't have an elite get-off, but he wins in the ways just mentioned. He destroys tight ends with his strength and power combination. Against the run, he uses his length to stack blocks, and his effort to pursue is outstanding. Overall, Davidson has some inside/outside flexibility and his production should carry over to the next level.

RANK
35

Jonathan Taylor, RB

School: Wisconsin | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 35

Taylor is an ultra-productive running back with outstanding strength and speed. On inside runs, he's sudden, carries his pads low to the ground and shows the balance to bounce off tacklers while keeping his legs alive. He isn't overly shifty, but he avoids taking flush hits and he always falls forward for extra yardage. He has plenty of speed to capture the edge and once he gets in space, he can run away from the crowd. In the passing game, he is very effective on screens, where he can set up his blocks and collect big chunks of yardage. He trusts his hands and attacks the ball when he's out in the route. He didn't have a lot of reps in pass protection in the games I studied. Overall, Taylor is an explosive home run hitter with upside in the passing game.

RANK
36

Laviska Shenault, WR

School: Colorado | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 36

Shenault is arguably the best athlete in the entire draft class. He is tall with a thick, muscular build. He lined up everywhere in Colorado's offense -- out wide, in the slot, at running back and he even took snaps as a Wildcat quarterback. Shenault isn't a nuanced route runner, but he is a monster with the ball in his hands. He excels on quick hitters, fly sweeps and vertical routes. He has strong hands and his transition into a running back is immediate after the catch. He steps through tacklers and has a burst to finish. He is very competitive. Overall, Shenault comes with some durability concerns and will need time to develop into a fully polished wideout, but he can have an immediate impact for a creative offensive coordinator. He's too big, strong and fast to *not* contribute. His drafting team just has to figure it out.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK
37

Cesar Ruiz, C

School: Michigan | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 37

Ruiz is an extremely consistent, physical and aware center. In pass protection, he has a tight punch and immediate anchor. His lower body is outrageously strong. He is very aware vs. twists/stunts. He lacks elite foot quickness, but he doesn't have any issues sliding and redirecting to stay square vs. defenders. In the run game, he latches and runs his feet to create movement. He is outstanding on combo blocks, staying under control, locating and walling off linebackers. His lack of foot quickness shows up on outside pulls. Overall, Ruiz reminds me of Travis Frederick coming out of Wisconsin.

RANK
38

Grant Delpit, S

5 ▼

School: LSU | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 33

Delpit is a tall, fast free safety who also possesses the ability to play in the slot. From the deep middle, he trusts his eyes and explodes to the ball, whether run or pass. He has outstanding range and I trust his ball skills. His numbers dropped this past season, but that was the result of some nagging injuries. He is fluid and smooth when lined up in the slot. He is aggressive as a force defender, but he has too many fly-by missed tackles. Everyone at the school raves about his leadership and intangibles. Overall, Delpit needs to clean up some tackling issues, but he has **Pro Bowl** potential at free safety.

RANK
39

Joshua Jones, OT

School: Houston | Year: Senior (RS)
Previous rank: 39

Jones lined up at left tackle for the Cougars. He has the ideal frame and length for the position. In pass pro, he is very smooth and efficient in his set. He isn't overly explosive but he has enough foot quicks to kick out and cover up speed rushes. He has a firm punch and he does a nice job replacing his hands when they get knocked down. He does play a little high and that impacts his ability to redirect versus up-and-under moves. In the run game, he can create movement on down blocks and he is effective at the second level. He shows awareness against both run and pass. Overall, Jones has some games where he looks like a top-15 player (see: the Oklahoma tape), but he needs to play with better knee bend on a consistent basis. He should be a solid, dependable starter early in his career.

RANK
40

J.K. Dobbins, RB

School: Ohio State | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 40

Dobbins is a compact running back with tremendous power, balance and instincts. He is at his best on inside runs. He doesn't hesitate, accelerating into contact and breaking a ton of tackles. He has a nifty inside spin move and can make second- and third-level defenders miss in space. He has enough speed to get to the perimeter, but he always looks to turn upfield as soon as possible. In the passing attack, he is effective in the screen game, but he has more work to do as a route runner. He had two tough drops vs. Clemson in the College Football Playoff, but he was reliable in every other game I studied. He is very aware in pass protection -- he can drop his weight and anchor linebackers. Overall, Dobbins' game should translate very well to the next level. He'll be a dependable starter immediately.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK
41

Cole Kmet, TE

School: Notre Dame | Year: Junior
Previous rank: 41

Kmet has an ideal frame for the TE position. He lined up inline and flexed out in Notre Dame's offense. In the passing game, he has good speed and does a lot of damage working in the seams. He uses his big frame to wall off defenders and pluck the ball in traffic (see: Georgia game). He isn't very polished or nuanced at the top of his route. He is at his best when he stays on the move instead of working back to the quarterback. He is physical after the catch, but he doesn't provide much wiggle or elusiveness. In the run game, he can effectively shield and wall off at the point of attack, and he takes good angles working up to the second level. Kmet was the closer on Notre Dame's baseball team and should make major strides now that he's solely focused on football. Overall, Kmet isn't a dynamic player, but he's going to get stronger. I see him as a reliable, long-term starter at the position.

RANK
42

Kristian Fulton, CB

School: LSU | Year: Senior
Previous rank: 42

Fulton has good size for the position and he's very fluid, smart and competitive. In press coverage, he switches up his technique. He's primarily patient, but he'll occasionally land a quick two-hand jam. He lacks elite top speed and he's had some issues timing his leap on jump balls down the field. From off coverage, he's very aware and shows some pop out of his plant/drive. He is very aggressive in run support. He fights through blocks and is very reliable in space. Overall, Fulton has some flaws, but I'll bet on his intangibles and toughness.

RANK
43

Jeremy Chinn, LB

5▲

School: Southern Illinois | Year: Senior
Previous rank: 48

Chinn is a fun player to study. He lined up all over the field in SIU's scheme. He has an outstanding blend of size, speed and instincts. He is at his best when he's in the box as a down safety/nickel linebacker. He has tremendous range to make plays sideline to sideline. He can locate and play the ball naturally (see: the high-point INT vs. UMass). He does have a little tightness when he's in space, but he recovers quickly. He is a very firm/reliable tackler. Overall, I believe Chinn is ideally suited to play WLB at the next level. He is exactly what teams are looking for in today's NFL.

RANK
44

Justin Madubuike, DT

1▼

School: Texas A&M | Year: Junior (RS)
Previous rank: 43

Madubuike is a strong, versatile defensive lineman. He aligns at every spot along the defensive front, but he's best suited as a 3-technique (on the edge of the guard). Against the pass, he is very quick to shoot his hands and generate knock-back. He has a quick club/rip move and is very adept at working through half the opponent instead of rushing down their numbers. His effort is outstanding. He is a dominant run defender. He excels at stacking blockers, separating and locating the football. Overall, Madubuike isn't an elite pass rusher, but he's impactful and can dominate on early downs.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK 45

Denzel Mims, WR

1▼

School: Baylor | Year: Senior
Previous rank: 44

Mims is a tall, rangy wideout with exceptional burst and body control. He uses his quickness and burst to escape press coverage, excelling on vertical routes down the field. He tracks the ball naturally and wins a bunch of 50/50 balls. He will need some time to develop as a complete route runner. He simply wasn't asked to run a large variety of routes in Baylor's offense. After the catch, he is slippery and elusive, but he isn't going to break many tackles. Overall, Mims is a big-play generator on the outside and has all of the tools to develop into a complete receiver.

RANK 46

Jeff Gladney, CB

School: TCU | Year: Senior (RS)
Previous rank: 46

Gladney lacks ideal size/bulk for the position, but he excels because of his blend of quickness and feistiness. He plays outside and inside. He is at his best in off coverage, where he uses a quick, fluid pedal before efficiently planting and driving on balls thrown in front of him. He doesn't waste steps. He is always in good position, but will get walled off at times by bigger wideouts. When he does press, he usually sits at 2 yards and carries his hands low before trying to catch wideouts and re-route them. His overall ball awareness is very good. He does a good job coming to balance before tackling runners and he's also an effective blitzer. Overall, Gladney needs to get a little stronger, but I love his scheme versatility and toughness.

RANK 47

Antoine Winfield Jr., S

2▲

School: Minnesota | Year: Sophomore (RS)
Previous rank: 49

Winfield is an undersized safety prospect with outstanding instincts and ball skills. His movement skills are very smooth and easy from the back end. He does a nice job playing over the top. He keeps everything in front of him, collecting a bunch of picks on tips and overthrows. He also spends a lot of time covering in the slot. He has enough speed to carry vertical routes down the field and he is also an excellent blitzer. As a tackler, he usually comes to balance, settles his feet and wraps up. Overall, there is some concern due to size and durability (missed time in 2017 and 2018 due to injury), but Winfield is a playmaker from the deep middle and his ability to match up in the slot is a bonus.

RANK 48

Trevon Diggs, CB

1▼

School: Alabama | Year: Senior
Previous rank: 47

Diggs has elite size, athleticism and ball skills. (He also played wide receiver and returned kicks during his career at Alabama.) He uses an effective one-hand jam in press before opening up and staying on the hip. He's fluid for such a big cornerback. It's important for him to stay in phase with the wideout because he lacks elite recovery speed. From off coverage, he reads through the wide receiver to the quarterback and has a good feel for jumping routes and making plays. His ball skills are outstanding -- as you'd expect, considering his brother is **Stefon Diggs**. He does need to improve as a tackler in space. Overall, Diggs has some room to develop, but he will excite teams looking for a big cornerback to match up with guys like **Mike Evans** and **Courtland Sutton**.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

RANK **49**

Lloyd Cushenberry, C

NR ▲

School: LSU | Year: Junior (RS)
Previous rank: Not ranked

Cushenberry has ideal size, length and athleticism for the center position. He is quick to shoot his hands and dance with defenders in pass protection. He redirects very smoothly and plays with excellent awareness. He will give some ground versus power rushers before eventually settling down. He has the ability to reach/cutoff or create some movement on defenders over his nose in the run game. He's very good at adjusting when he works up to the second level. Overall, Cushenberry needs to add some play strength, but he has all of the necessary tools to be a quality starting center very early in his NFL career.

RANK **50**

Jalen Hurts, QB

NR ▲

School: Oklahoma | Year: Senior
Previous rank: Not ranked

Hurts is slightly undersized for the position but his production, poise and playmaking ability are very impressive. He has crisp footwork in his drop and he throws from a very firm platform. He has a quick release and generates excellent velocity on drive throws. Hurts flashed the ability to touch the ball up, but his ball placement still needs to improve. His vision and anticipation are other areas that need work. He's an outstanding runner, both on designed runs and when pressured. He gains ground quickly and runs through contact consistently. I love his competitiveness and toughness. Overall, Hurts must continue to improve in the passing game, but I'm going to bet on his eventual success due to his playmaking skills and overall competitiveness.

2020 PLAYER RANKINGS

THE MMQB – KEVIN HANSON

Last updated: April 3, 2020

1. Chase Young, EDGE, Ohio State

JR, 6' 5", 264 pounds

While he won't be the first pick in the draft, Young's traits and production are exceptional. While his impact goes beyond the box score, the explosive edge rusher led the nation in sacks (16.5, 1.38/G) and forced fumbles (six, 0.5/G) despite serving a two-game suspension for an NCAA rules violation.

2. Joe Burrow, QB, LSU

rSR, 6' 3", 221 pounds

Despite facing seven top-10 opponents, Burrow played his best in the biggest moments as he led the Tigers to an undefeated season. Throwing an FBS-record 60 touchdowns and rushing for five more, the Heisman-winning quarterback shows tremendous poise in the pocket and throws with pinpoint accuracy.

3. Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State

JR, 6' 1", 205 pounds

Will Okudah be the first cornerback selected with a top-three pick since 1997 (Shawn Springs, Seattle)? The former Buckeye has all the traits teams covet in a shutdown corner—size, length, fluidity and athleticism—and led the Buckeyes in interceptions (three) and passes defended (12).

4. Isaiah Simmons, LB, Clemson

rJR, 6' 4", 238 pounds

As Simmons says, he "just play(s) defense." The converted safety won the Butkus Award, given to the nation's top college linebacker, but he played 100-plus snaps at five different positions in 2019. A modern-day hybrid defender, Simmons ran a sub-4.4 in the 40 at 238 pounds and has the ability to impact the game from a variety of roles.

5. Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama

JR, 6' 0", 217 pounds

Medical evaluations are critical for Tagovailoa, who says he "feel(s) 100%." Of course, teams won't simply take his word for it and travel and team visit restrictions add even more uncertainty around his draft stock. When healthy, however, Tua has a quick release and throws with elite accuracy, anticipation and touch to all levels of the field.

6. Derrick Brown, IDL, Auburn

SR, 6' 5", 326 pounds

Passing on an opportunity to be a first-round pick in 2019, Brown returned to school and has subsequently improved his draft stock. A scheme-diverse prospect, Brown has elite strength and size and is dominant against the run.

7. Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama

JR, 6' 1", 193 pounds

A polished route-runner who plays fast, Jeudy excels after the catch with his stop-start ability and elusiveness. Jeudy has impressive body control and natural hands, but he has had some concentration drops. He's a high-floor receiver who should emerge as his future team's No. 1 receiver early in his career.

8. Jedrick Wills, OT, Alabama

JR, 6' 4", 312 pounds

Starting the past two seasons at right tackle, Wills showed year-over-year improvement from his sophomore to junior season. While he doesn't have experience at left tackle, Wills is an elite run blocker and he has the quick feet and smooth movement skills to become a high-end starter on either side.

9. CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma

JR, 6' 2", 198 pounds

Experienced lining up both inside and outside, Lamb has exceptional ball skills with a special ability to contort his body and adjust to the ball in the air. While he doesn't have elite speed (he's fast enough, though), Lamb is dangerous after the catch with his vision in the open field and ability to make would-be tacklers miss.

10. Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa

JR, 6' 5", 320 pounds)

The first true freshman to start at offensive tackle during the Kirk Ferentz era, Wirfs mostly started at right tackle for the Hawkeyes, although he also started a few games at left tackle. A former state champion wrestler, Wirfs led all offensive linemen at the combine in the 40-yard dash (4.85), vertical jump (36.5") and broad jump (10' 1").

11. Javon Kinlaw, IDL, South Carolina

SR, 6' 5", 324 pounds

Kinlaw possesses an unreal combination of size, first-step explosiveness and length—34 7/8" arms and 84" wingspan—and recorded a total of 10 sacks over the past two seasons. The South Carolina senior played his best in games against his toughest competition and put on a show during Senior Bowl one-on-ones.

12. Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama

JR, 5' 11", 188 pounds

Given his rare acceleration and run-after-catch ability, Ruggs has the ability to take the top off of the defense and is a threat to take any slant to the house. While speed is his most deadly weapon, he has improved as a route-runner and adjusts well to the football.

13. Mekhi Becton, OT, Louisville

JR, 6' 7", 364 pounds

Starting at left tackle in 2019, Becton had switched sides (LT to RT) within the game during the previous two seasons. Becton has rare size and length. Given his size, Becton has the strength you'd expect and is a mauler in the run game. While he has work to do for his pass protection to catch up to his prowess as a run blocker, he has rare movement skills for a man his size.

14. Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia

JR, 6' 5", 315 pounds

Thomas has started 41 games—15 at right tackle as a freshman and 26 at left tackle over the past two seasons. His combination of strength, length (36 1/8" arms), athleticism and experience make him ready to start Day 1.

15. C.J. Henderson, CB, Florida

JR, 6' 1", 204 pounds

Critics will be quick to point to his inconsistency as a tackler, but Henderson has elite man-coverage skills. His agility, fluid movements and smooth transitions keep him connected to routes in coverage and while the ball production wasn't there in 2019, Henderson had six combined interceptions in his first two seasons at Florida.

16. Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU

JR, 6' 1", 202 pounds

One of the biggest winners at the combine, Jefferson ran a faster-than-expected 40-yard dash (4.43). A nuanced route-runner with outstanding ball skills, Jefferson has the versatility to win both outside and from the slot.

17. K'Lavon Chaisson, EDGE, LSU

JR, 6' 3", 254 pounds

Displaying outstanding burst and bend around the edge, Chaisson flashes elite pass-rushing upside, but he has lacked consistent sack production. Returning from his torn ACL in 2018, the 20-year-old edge rusher gained momentum down the stretch with 4.5 sacks in his final four games.

18. Patrick Queen, LB, LSU

JR, 6' 0", 229 pounds

One of the youngest prospects in the draft (turns 21 in August), Queen played his best down the stretch during LSU's title run as he ended his breakout junior season with six tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks over the final four games. Thriving in coverage, Queen has outstanding speed and is a fluid mover with excellent change-of-direction ability.

19. Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon

SR, 6' 6", 236 pounds

A four-year starter, the ball really jumps out of Herbert's hand and his plus mobility adds another dimension to his game. While he has as much pure arm talent as any quarterback in this class and is highly intelligent (won Campbell Trophy), he has had a propensity to lock onto his initial read(s) and hasn't shown the consistency you'd expect from a potential top-10 pick.

20. Kristian Fulton, CB, LSU

SR, 6' 0", 197 pounds

With lots of experience in press coverage, Fulton is a patient and physical corner with decent size. While he may not have elite long speed, he checked the box with a 4.46 in the 40 at the combine and he's quick, fluid and sticky in coverage.

21. Kenneth Murray, LB, Oklahoma

JR, 6' 3", 241 pounds

With sideline-to-sideline range and a high motor, Murray has been a tackling machine for the Sooners with more than 100 tackles in each of the past two seasons and 17 tackles for loss in 2019.

22. D'Andre Swift, RB, Georgia

JR, 5' 8", 212 pounds

With a compact frame, low center of gravity and powerful lower body, Swift is a patient runner with exceptional lateral agility and balance. While he has rushed for 1,000-plus yards in back-to-back season, Swift really shines as a receiver out of the backfield.

23. Grant Delpit, S, LSU

JR, 6' 3", 213 pounds

The biggest concern with Delpit is his inconsistency as a tackler, although he dealt with a high-ankle sprain for part of the year. When healthy, Delpit is a long and rangy playmaker on the back end who had eight interceptions and 24 passes defended over his three seasons in Baton Rouge.

24. Trevon Diggs, CB, Alabama

SR, 6' 1", 205 pounds

Diggs has an elite combination of size and length for the position that suits him well at the line of scrimmage and when challenging at the catch point. The younger brother of Bills receiver Stefon Diggs, Trevon also played wide receiver early in his Alabama career and has outstanding ball skills.

25. Xavier McKinney, S, Alabama

JR, 6' 0", 201 pounds

An instinctive and versatile defender, McKinney has the skill set to play either safety spot and slot cornerback and has no glaring weaknesses when it comes to coverage or run defense. A fluid mover with excellent range, the junior safety tied for the team lead in interceptions (three) in 2019.

26. Jordan Love, QB, Utah State

rJR, 6' 4", 224 pounds

Part of Love's 2019 regression can be attributed to a coaching change and lack of talent in his supporting cast, but he pressed at times and often made ill-advised throws. The epitome of a high-risk, high-reward prospect, Love has a cannon for a right arm to go along with plus movement skills to extend and make plays.

27. Jonathan Taylor, RB, Wisconsin

JR, 5' 10", 226 pounds

Rushing for more than 6,100 yards and 50 touchdowns in his three-year collegiate career, Taylor has the size, power and speed to break tackles and run away from defenders. While he was more involved as a receiver as a junior, Taylor has had some issues with ball security and handled a massive workload—968 touches—while in Madison.

28. A.J. Epenesa, EDGE, Iowa

JR, 6' 5", 275 pounds

Epenesa isn't a speed rusher, but the former Hawkeye wins with a blend of power, length, technique and heavy hands and has the versatility to rush from the inside as well. While he started the 2019 season slowly, Epenesa closed the season strong with eight sacks and four forced fumbles over his final five games.

29. Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson

JR, 6' 4", 216 pounds

Higgins has a large catch radius, high points the football well and wins as a vertical receiver. He ended his collegiate career tied with DeAndre Hopkins and Sammy Watkins for the most receiving touchdowns (27) in Clemson history.

30. Josh Jones, OT, Houston

SR, 6' 5", 319 pounds

Starting 45 games at left tackle, Jones may have some work to do in terms of cleaning up his technique, but he has steadily improved over his four seasons for the Cougars. Light on his feet, Jones has the movement skills that allow him to reach blocks at the second level with ease.

31. Austin Jackson, OT, USC

JR, 6' 5", 322 pounds

Only 20 years old, Jackson would have benefited from returning to USC for another season. That said, he has the quick feet and athleticism that could entice a team to take a chance on his upside in the first round as his technique catches up to his athleticism.

32. J.K. Dobbins, RB, Ohio State

JR, 5' 10", 209 pounds

Possessing excellent vision, balance and power, Dobbins broke Eddie George's single-season school rushing record in 2019. That said, he's a complete back that has been productive as a receiver (22-plus catches in all three seasons) and competes well in pass protection.

33. Yetur Gross-Matos, EDGE, Penn State

JR, 6' 5", 266 pounds

With his length, agility and first step, Gross-Matos has been a productive pass-rusher for Penn State with 17 sacks and 34.5 tackles for loss combined over the past two seasons.

34. Denzel Mims, WR, Baylor

SR, 6' 3", 207 pounds

Few players, if any, have helped their draft stock more than Mims during the pre-draft process. After an outstanding week at the Senior Bowl, Mims ran a sub-4.4 in the 40 with a position-best 6.66 in the three-cone drill at the combine. Per PFF stats, the 207-pound wideout led the nation with 20 contested catches.

35. Brandon Aiyuk, WR, Arizona State

SR, 6' 0", 205 pounds

With N'Keal Harry moving on to the NFL this past season, Aiyuk broke out for the Sun Devils with 1,192 yards (18.3 Y/R) and eight touchdowns in 2019. Dangerous in the open field, he has the ability to turn a short pass into a big play at any time.

36. Jeff Gladney, CB, TCU

rSR, 5' 10", 191 pounds

Gladney lacks ideal size and length at the position, but he plays with a more physical presence than his weight would suggest. Blending foot quickness, short-area agility and a feisty competitive toughness, Gladney has a nose for the ball that's led to 26 passes defended since 2018 and five interceptions over his three seasons as a starter.

37. Zack Baun, LB, Wisconsin

rSR, 6' 2", 238 pounds

Lacking ideal size to be a full-time NFL edge rusher, Baun trailed only Chase Young in sacks (12.5) and tackles for loss (19.5) among Big Ten defenders. With sideline-to-sideline range to go along with his coverage and blitzing ability, Baun should transition smoothly into his new role as an off-ball linebacker at the next level.

38. A.J. Terrell, CB, Clemson

JR, 6' 1", 195 pounds

While Terrell may not have fared well in his collegiate finale against Ja'Marr Chase and LSU, the junior cornerback has the length, fluidity and speed that teams covet.

39. Laviska Shenault, WR, Colorado

JR, 6' 1", 227 pounds

Shenault remains an unrefined route-runner, but he turns into a running back with the ball in his hands. With his ability to break tackles, he flourishes in the open field due to his strength, size, burst, vision and elusiveness.

40. Jaylon Johnson, CB, Utah

JR, 6' 0", 193 pounds

A fluid athlete at 6' and 193 pounds, Johnson has started 29 games over three seasons and has seven career interceptions and 28 passes defended.

41. Ross Blacklock, IDL, TCU

rJR, 6' 3", 290 pounds

Often utilized in a two-gap role at TCU, Blacklock displays impressive burst and lateral agility to be a disruptive one-gap penetrator at the next level. His pass-rushing upside puts him in the mix as a potential first-rounder in April.

42. Jalen Reagor, WR, TCU

JR, 5' 11", 206 pounds

Reagor's 40-yard dash time (4.47) was worse than expected in Indy, but the junior receiver plays much faster than his timed runs at the combine and is a dynamic player in the open field. Last year's production (43/611/5) dropped from his breakout sophomore campaign (72/1,061/9), but his quarterback situation was less than ideal.

43. Cesar Ruiz, IOL, Michigan

JR, 6' 3", 307 pounds

With the versatility to start anywhere along the interior offensive line, Ruiz started the past two seasons at center to go along with five starts at right guard as a true freshman in 2017. Technically sound with active hands and quick feet, Ruiz is my top-ranked interior offensive lineman.

44. Neville Gallimore, IDL, Oklahoma

rSR, 6' 2", 304 pounds

Combining freakish athleticism and a non-stop motor, Gallimore explodes off the ball and has outstanding short-area agility for his size. While he spends a lot of time in the backfield, he doesn't always finish, as he had a total of seven sacks over the past two seasons.

45. Damon Arnette, CB, Ohio State

rSR, 6' 0", 195 pounds

Had Shaun Wade not opted to return to Columbus, the Buckeyes could have had three corners in my top-50. A three-year starter at Ohio State, Arnette has good size and athleticism and benefited from returning to school another season with improved play.

46. Clyde Edwards-Helaire, RB, LSU

JR, 5' 7", 207 pounds

Quicker than fast, Edwards-Helaire has a powerful compact frame and the lateral agility to make would-be tacklers miss in tight quarters. Especially excelling as a receiver, Edwards-Helaire runs crisp routes and has natural hands. Experienced and productive as a kick returner, CEH has the ability to contribute on all four downs.

47. Terrell Lewis, EDGE, Alabama

rJR, 6' 5", 262 pounds

Missing virtually all of 2017 (elbow) and 2018 (ACL), Lewis recorded 11.5 tackles for loss, six sacks and had a team-high 16 QB hurries in 2019. Even though he's a little raw in his development given the amount of time he has missed, Lewis has explosive burst off the edge, tremendous length and plenty of upside as he continues to develop.

48. Antoine Winfield Jr., S, Minnesota

rSO, 5' 9", 203 pounds

Even though he lacks ideal height, and length and missed all but four games each in the 2017 and '18 seasons, Winfield Jr. is an instinctual “student of the game” with an NFL pedigree. A sure tackler with outstanding ball skills, Winfield Jr. led the Golden Gophers in both tackles (88) and interceptions (seven) in 2019.

49. Cole Kmet, TE, Notre Dame

JR, 6' 6", 262 pounds

A two-sport athlete (with baseball) at Notre Dame, Kmet initially planned to return to South Bend, but he could be the TE1 in a relatively weak class. Kmet has reliable hands, runs good routes and tested well at the combine.

50. Julian Okwara, EDGE, Notre Dame

SR, 6' 4", 252 pounds

Okwara’s season was cut short (fibula) and he has lacked consistency, but he’s a long and explosive athlete that has racked up 13.5 sacks and 19.5 TFL in 22 games over the past two seasons.

Here are the next 50:

51. Marlon Davidson, IDL, Auburn (SR, 6' 3", 303 pounds)

52. Ezra Cleveland, OT, Boise State (rJR, 6' 6", 311 pounds)

53. Jeremy Chinn, S, Southern Illinois (SR, 6' 3", 221 pounds)

54. Justin Madubuike, IDL, Texas A&M (rJR, 6' 3", 293 pounds)

55. Ashtyn Davis, S, Cal (rSR, 6' 1", 202 pounds)

56. Kyle Dugger, S, Lenoir-Rhyne (SR, 6' 1", 217 pounds)

57. Noah Igbinoghene, CB, Auburn (JR, 5' 10", 198 pounds)

58. Jordan Elliott, IDL, Missouri (rJR, 6' 4", 302 pounds)

59. Michael Pittman Jr., WR, USC (SR, 6' 4", 223 pounds)

60. Bryce Hall, CB, Virginia (SR, 6' 1", 202 pounds)

61. Cam Akers, RB, Florida State (JR, 5' 10", 217 pounds)

62. K.J. Hamler, WR, Penn State (rSO, 5' 9", 178 pounds)

63. Lloyd Cushenberry, IOL, LSU (rJR, 6' 3", 312 pounds)

64. Matt Peart, OT, Connecticut (rSR, 6' 7", 318 pounds)

65. Cameron Dantzler, CB, Mississippi State (rJR, 6' 2", 188 pounds)

66. Adam Trautman, TE, Dayton (rSR, 6' 5", 255 pounds)

67. Lucas Niang, OT, TCU (SR, 6' 6", 315 pounds)

68. Chase Claypool, WR, Notre Dame (SR, 6' 4", 238 pounds)

69. Jacob Eason, QB, Washington (rJR, 6' 6", 231 pounds)

70. Josh Uche, EDGE, Michigan (SR, 6' 1", 245 pounds)

71. Jonathan Greenard, EDGE, Florida (rSR, 6' 3", 263 pounds)

72. Bradlee Anae, EDGE, Utah (SR, 6' 3", 257 pounds)

73. Isaiah Wilson, OT, Georgia (rSO, 6' 7", 350 pounds)

74. Troy Pride Jr., CB, Notre Dame (SR, 6' 0", 193 pounds)

75. Curtis Weaver, EDGE, Boise State (rJR, 6' 2", 265 pounds)

76. Donovan Peoples-Jones, WR, Michigan (JR, 6' 2", 212 pounds)

77. Robert Hunt, IOL, Louisiana-Lafayette (rSR, 6' 5", 323 pounds)

78. Troy Dye, LB, Oregon (SR, 6' 3", 231 pounds)

79. Malik Harrison, LB, Ohio State (SR, 6' 3", 247 pounds)

80. Matt Hennessy, IOL, Temple (rJR, 6' 4", 307 pounds)

81. Darrell Taylor, EDGE, Tennessee (rSR, 6' 4", 267 pounds)

82. Jake Fromm, QB, Georgia (JR, 6' 2", 219 pounds)

83. Jalen Hurts, QB, Oklahoma (SR, 6' 1", 222 pounds)

84. Tyler Biadasz, IOL, Wisconsin (rJR, 6' 4", 314 pounds)

85. Zack Moss, RB, Utah (SR, 5' 9", 223 pounds)

86. Jordyn Brooks, LB, Texas Tech (SR, 6' 0", 240 pounds)

87. Brycen Hopkins, TE, Purdue (rSR, 6' 4", 245 pounds)

88. Akeem Davis-Gaither, LB, Appalachian State (rSR, 6' 2", 224 pounds)

89. Bryan Edwards, WR, South Carolina (SR, 6' 3", 212 pounds)

90. Prince Tega Wanogho, OT, Auburn (SR, 6' 5", 308 pounds)

91. Amik Robertson, CB, Louisiana Tech (JR, 5' 8", 187 pounds)

92. Logan Wilson, LB, Wyoming (rSR, 6' 2", 241 pounds)

93. Terrell Burgess, S, Utah (SR, 5' 11", 202 pounds)

94. Jonah Jackson, IOL, Ohio State (rSR, 6' 4", 306 pounds)

95. Willie Gay Jr., LB, Mississippi State (JR, 6' 1", 243 pounds)

96. Damien Lewis, IOL, LSU (SR, 6' 2", 327 pounds)

97. Netane Muti, IOL, Fresno State (rSR, 6' 3", 315 pounds)

98. Van Jefferson, WR, Florida (rSR, 6' 2", 200 pounds)

99. Kenny Willekes, EDGE, Michigan State (rSR, 6' 4", 264 pounds)

100. Tyler Johnson, WR, Minnesota (SR, 6' 1", 206 pounds)

DRAFT CLIPPINGS

Five Things We Learned From The Ravens' Virtual Predraft News Conference

BALTIMORE SUN | APR. 7, 2020 | CHILDS WALKER

Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta is confident that his staff will fall back on old-school scouting chops in a draft altered by the coronavirus epidemic. That's among five things we learned from the team's virtual predraft news conference.

The Ravens think that scouting acumen will mitigate knowledge gaps caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
Last year at this time, Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta showed off his team's cutting-edge draft room, gleefully posting the names of local media members on a mock big board.

On Monday, DeCosta fielded questions about the 2020 draft from his home office, words breaking up because of a spotty Zoom connection.

If we needed another reminder of how strange everyday life has become, here it was. But DeCosta, who joined coach John Harbaugh and director of player personnel Joe Hortiz for the video news conference, refused to concede much of anything to the pandemic.

Though Ravens scouts and coaches will have to conduct their predraft meetings over Zoom and though the team will be unable to host favored prospects at its facility in Owings Mills, DeCosta said the process "hasn't been that bad, honestly."

He noted that the Ravens drafted just fine during their early years in Baltimore, a largely pre-digital age when less information was available on each player. If anything, he said, the process has reminded the Ravens of a fundamental tenet: "It's really about the tape." They've made some of their most astute draft scores when blocking out the chatter about a player and focusing on how he performed in college.

"There's probably going to be, in this process, some questions that we just can't answer," DeCosta said. "Some of those questions might be about a player's personality, might be about an injury that the player sustained, could be a lack of a workout. We've got to figure out how do we value those unknowns? … That's not easy for some of us that like to have as much information as possible."

But if anything, he sounded invigorated by having to fall back on his staff's scouting fundamentals. DeCosta made his NFL bones as a scout, so he knows most of the essential work was done before social-distancing regulations clamped down on the Ravens and every other team. "It's gonna be old school," he said. "We know it can be done."

The Ravens have the ammunition to move up in the first round, but that doesn't mean they will.
With seven picks over the first four rounds, DeCosta acknowledged "we have the opportunity maybe to go up and get a guy."

But he quickly added that when a coveted prospect starts to fall, the Ravens are usually outbid by another team more eager to move up. "Sometimes, the best trades are the ones we don't make," he said.

DeCosta will rarely tip his hand regarding expectations for an upcoming draft. But his words offered a useful reminder of the mentality he learned under previous general manager Ozzie Newsome. The Ravens trust their ability to find good players throughout the draft, so they're reluctant to give up volume in the hunt for a specific prospect. That's why we've seen them trade down more than up over the years.

Do they have the assets to move up for a sexy prospect such as Alabama wide receiver Jerry Jeudy? Sure. Are they likely to do so when there are at least a dozen receiver prospects who could help them right away? History tells us no.

That's not to say that the Ravens will stand pat throughout the draft. They almost certainly will not. DeCosta is an aggressive general manager who loves to trade. Expect him to make opportunistic moves up and down the board. Just don't set your hearts on a big first-day leap when he has urgent work to do at three or four positions.

Replacing Marshal Yanda might be the Ravens' most difficult assignment.
Harbaugh did not blow sunshine when asked about filling the shoes of an eight-time Pro Bowl guard. "The thinking is it's going to be really hard," he said. "He's irreplaceable, bottom line."

With their prolific rushing attack, the Ravens need powerful interior blockers more than ever, and one of the two best offensive linemen in franchise history just retired near the peak of his powers. The Ravens have a potential in-house solution in 2019 fourth-round pick

Ben Powers, but that's no given. They're also facing uncertainty at center, where Matt Skura is working to come back from a catastrophic knee injury. To feel confident in their interior shuffle, they'll need more good players.

"Taking Marshal out of that equation is not just a one-guy deal," Harbaugh said. "He exponentially makes the offensive line better. … That's one of the biggest challenges. It's job one or two; we have to do a great job making sure the interior offensive line is set."

Do the answers lie in a draft class that features high-end tackle prospects but middling depth at the interior spots? When asked about the deepest positions in the class, DeCosta did not list offensive line. But he did express confidence that the Ravens will find a ready-to-play blocker on the first two days.

"That's the plan," he said. "There are some tackles that we think could play inside at guard. There are some really good guards, some centers. I think we've shown in the past we can find guys in the second third, fourth, fifth round — offensive linemen who can come in and play."

Yanda was one of those, a third-round pick in 2007 who evolved from a college tackle to one of the best guards of his generation. It's too much to ask for a second lightning strike at the same position, but you can bet the Ravens will try.

We can't know where the Ravens will lean in the first round.
Good luck trying to sift any intelligence on an individual player from DeCosta and Hortiz's comments. Ravens officials have long joked that their annual predraft news conference is a festival of deceit and misdirection. And they were, if anything, less revealing than usual this time around.

We know the Ravens (like everyone else) see great depth at wide receiver, where DeCosta said there are 25 draftable players. We know they could use a three-down inside linebacker or a starting guard. But DeCosta and Hortiz also lavished praise on the cornerbacks, safeties and running backs who might be available in the first and second rounds. So as much as you might like to pair the Ravens with your favorite receiver or one of those linebackers we keep hearing about, reality is cloudier.

DeCosta could probably narrow his pool of likely first-round choices to a half-dozen, but even he does not know what hand he'll be dealt at the 28th overall pick. The Ravens do not control their destiny, and nothing you hear or read over the next 16 days will change that.

The Ravens' season could be delayed or even wiped out, but those are problems for a later date.
DeCosta and Harbaugh know that nothing is certain in this unsettled time for the world. Though no schedule changes have been announced, they're preparing for a late start to the Ravens' offseason program. Team meetings and conditioning sessions could be conducted via Zoom. Beyond that, no one can guarantee games will be played this fall, an agonizing prospect for a team with realistic Super Bowl aspirations.

But there's a guiding ethic in professional sports that you control what you can and don't waste energy fretting about what you can't.

"Everybody thinks about it. I wouldn't say you don't think about it," Harbaugh said. "But it's not something that I'm concerned with in the sense that we're getting ready for a season and I'm assuming we're going to play. I'm assuming we're going to be back at the soonest possible date and therefore be ready for it, to get the most out of it."

If every team has less time to prepare, how can the Ravens squeeze the most out of said time? Harbaugh has always looked for possible competitive advantages when presented with rule changes or scheduling quirks. He suggested this situation will be no different.

DeCosta's primary job is the same as it always is this time of year: fortify his roster in the draft. There's a comfort in that.

"I know the draft is probably the most important thing right now for the organization, so I'll focus on that," he said. "We'll worry about what happens next when that next thing is on the plate."

For all the talk of what won't change, Harbaugh acknowledged some things have. He's taking neighborhood walks with his wife, Igrid, at times when he'd normally be buried in his office.

"The message to me is you don't have to drive into the office every day to get the job done," he said. "Before, it would have been business as usual, and now it's not. And I think hopefully, for me personally, I'll look at things a little differently when we come out of this whole thing, with lifestyle and priorities and how time is spent. I would like to think we would all do that."

Ravens Draft Preview: Overhauled Defensive Line Still Needs Young Talent. There's Good Help Available.

BALTIMORE SUN | APR. 17, 2020 | JONAS SHAFFER

The Ravens' most expensive offseason project — upgrade the defensive line — won't stop with their signings of defensive ends Calais Campbell and Derek Wolfe. Partly because it can't.

Campbell turns 34 in September. Wolfe turned 30 in February and is on a one-year deal. Brandon Williams, the team's longtime defensive tackle, turned 31 in February and is set to hit free agency after the 2021 season. There's not much behind them, either. The Ravens have rarely looked for defensive line help high in the NFL draft in recent years, and their yield in later rounds hasn't amounted to much.

Defensive tackle Carl Davis, the No. 90 overall pick in 2015, lasted three years in Baltimore. Defensive end Bronson Kaufusi (No. 70 in 2016) lasted two. Defensive tackle Willie Henry (No. 134 in 2016) had three up-and-down, injury-riddled seasons. Defensive end Chris Wormley (No. 74 in 2017) was traded last month. Defensive end Zach Sieler (No. 238 in 2018) was waived in December. Defensive tackle Daylon Mack (No. 160 in 2019) played nine snaps last season.

All of which has left the Ravens relying on short-term deals to cover holes and, now, looking to the draft to build a new foundation. Auburn's Derrick Brown and South Carolina's Javon Kinlaw are potential top-10 picks in next week's draft, but general manager Eric DeCosta will have quality options later in the first and second rounds. Here's how five potential defensive line targets in that range stack up, why they'd fit and why they might not:

1. Auburn's Marlon Davidson

Why he'd fit: A four-year starter for the Tigers, Davidson finished ahead of his teammate Brown in sacks (7½) and had as many tackles for loss (12½) last season. As a 278-pound defensive end in 2019, he lined up outside an offensive tackle on more than two-thirds of his snaps, according to Pro Football Focus. But at the NFL scouting combine, the 6-foot-3 Davidson weighed in at 303 pounds and still ran a 5.04-second 40-yard dash, suggesting his future might be as a full-time interior lineman.

His skill set should help him contribute in any scheme, as should his motor. Davidson was almost immovable as an edge-setting, stand-up end for Auburn, and his added weight could help him fare just as well inside. When he had a good get-off at the line of scrimmage, his hand usage and thick upper body made his pass-rush arc difficult to disrupt. Davidson even blocked three field-goal attempts last year.

Why he might not: Davidson would likely have to play as a five-technique (lined up over a tackle's outside shoulder) or three-technique lineman in Baltimore, and do so from a three-point stance. He dominated in limited practice snaps at the Senior Bowl, but there's still much to learn.

Transitioning to a new position with a shortened offseason could be especially difficult. According to NFL.com, he was on the field for only 51% of the Tigers' snaps against the run. Would he be able to hold up inside against double teams? The geometry of interior and outside pass rushes is also different, and Davidson, who's more agile than sudden, doesn't have as much experience winning in close quarters.

2. Oklahoma's Neville Gallimore

Why he'd fit: Gallimore's production is finally catching up to his freakish athleticism. After dropping 30 pounds before his senior season, the Ontario native racked up four sacks, 71½ tackles for loss and two forced fumbles — all career highs — and a combined 28 quarterback hits and hurries, according to PFF. At the combine, the 6-2, 304-pound Gallimore ran a 4.79-second 40-yard dash, the second-fastest time among defensive linemen.

He plays with that kind of burst, and the violent hands to match. Gallimore doesn't need long to blow by guards and centers, just a quick first step, a club to the blocker's shoulder and a swim move. As a run defender, he can be a disruptive one-gap penetrator. Maybe most impressive is his work rate. Late in a blowout of Texas Tech, Gallimore beat the center easily, shed a running back's chip block and chased down the scrambling quarterback from behind to force a fumble.

Why he might not: Gallimore wasn't an every-down presence for the Sooners; he played only 53.7% of the team's defensive snaps, according to The Athletic. He split his time last year almost evenly between the A gaps (between the center and guard) and B gaps (between the guard and tackle), but his NFL production might be most volatile as a nose tackle, where he was most valuable for Oklahoma.

Gallimore's play strength is his biggest obstacle inside. Whatever leverage he can win with his explosiveness, he can lose by playing too upright, sapping him of his power when blockers get into his chest. Despite Gallimore's wondrous weight room strength — he's reportedly bench-pressed 500 pounds and squatted 800 pounds — he struggled against double teams. His eagerness to shoot gaps took him out of plays, too.

3. Texas A&M's Justin Madubuike

Why he'd fit: Madubuike has been among the nation's most productive interior linemen over the past two years, with a combined 11 sacks and 22 tackles for loss. At 6-3, 293 pounds, he might not have the heft to hold up as a nose tackle, but his explosive qualities make him a potential three-down force as a three-technique lineman. At the combine, Madubuike showed impressive speed (4.83-second 40-yard dash), strength (31 repetitions of 225 pounds on the bench press) and lateral agility (finished just behind lighter edge rushers in the three-cone drill).

He has a lean frame but packs a mean punch. Madubuike's wingspan is nearly as wide as the 6-5 Brown's, and he jolted blockers back when he landed his strikes. With a good get-off, he was tough to keep out of the backfield. In run defense, he has the quickness to win inside as a one-gapping penetrator, and could be used to hold the point of attack as a two-gapper. He also blocked a field-goal attempt last season.

Why he might not: After a breakout sophomore season, Madubuike didn't make much of a leap with his 2019 production. He's a capable pass rusher, but there's room for growth in his ability to counter and shed blockers.

Consistency will be key for Madubuike as he develops. His quickness off the snap fluctuated, and he struggled to keep his balance when his pad level left him vulnerable to jabs. When he couldn't win early on the play, his work rate usually suffered.

4. TCU's Ross Blacklock

Why he'd fit: For being 290 pounds, Blacklock, the son of a former Harlem Globetrotter, plays with basketball-esque quickness. That starts with his great first step and ends with a closing burst to track down ball carriers. The Horned Frogs often asked him to line up over center, loop around at the snap and attack the outside shoulder of offensive tackles.

At 6-3, Blacklock plays with great leverage and pad level. His lateral movement and sudden hands made him a chore for Big 12 Conference interior linemen to mirror, and should also help him succeed against NFL zone-blocking schemes. Blacklock likely projects as a three-technique lineman (lined up over a guard's outside shoulder), where he can win as a pass rusher on stunts and disrupt pulling guards in the run game.

Why he might not: Blacklock's most valuable as a pass rusher, and he had a career pass-rush win rate of 12.6% at TCU, according to PFF, well above average. But over his two full seasons as a starter — he suffered an Achilles tendon injury in August 2018 — he combined for just 5½ sacks. He also finished with just nine tackles for loss last season.

As a run stopper, Blacklock struggled at times to anchor against double teams; his play strength might keep him from succeeding as a two-gap linemen. While he ran a 4.9-second 40-yard dash at the combine, his other athletic testing results ranked among the lower third for defensive linemen. (He didn't participate in the bench press.)

5. Missouri's Jordan Elliott

Why he'd fit: Brown and Kinlaw are first-round locks, but it was Elliott who graded out as PFF's highest-rated interior defender last season. Lining up wherever the Tigers needed him up front, he finished with three sacks and 10 tackles for loss, along with nine quarterback hits and 21 hurries.

The 6-4, 302-pound Elliott drew a lot of attention in his first year as a starter, which limited his one-on-one opportunities. But he flashed star potential. He already has a go-to pass-rush move (jab step followed by an arm-over technique) and is developing a counter (spin move). On a defense like the Ravens', which doesn't require an every-down interior lineman, his raw power could be more effectively harnessed.

Why he might not: Elliott could dominate against one Top-25 Southeastern Conference opponent, like Florida, and disappear against another, like Georgia. Part of the problem was his technique: Too often, Elliott played with a high pad level, which allowed lesser blockers to control him. In run defense, he was inconsistent anchoring against double teams.

Predraft interviews could be especially insightful. As a high school recruit, Elliott committed to Baylor, Houston and Michigan before signing with Texas. After his freshman season, he transferred to Missouri, where he reunited with his former Longhorns defensive line coach and eventually became a team captain.

Other possibilities: Ohio State's Davon Hamilton, Utah's Leki Fotu, Alabama's Raekwon Davis, Baylor's James Lynch, North Carolina's Jason Strowbridge

Ravens Could Draft Pass-Catching Tight End

BALTIMORERAVENS.COM | APR. 14, 2020 | CLIFF BROWN

It's no secret that Offensive Coordinator Greg Roman loves utilizing tight ends. That raises the possibility that the Ravens will select a tight end in this year's draft after trading former first-round pick Hayden Hurst to the Atlanta Falcons in March.

"We like to have a bunch of guys with multiple skills sets who can do differen t things to help us," General Manager Eric DeCosta said, regarding drafting a tight end. "If there's a guy there in the right spot it would really be foolish for us not to consider him."

The deal that sent Hurst and a fourth-round pick to Atlanta, in exchange for second- and fifth-round picks, leaves Mark Andrews and Nick Boyle as Baltimore's primary tight ends. That's still a formidable one-two punch. Andrews made the Pro Bowl in his second season, while Boyle is one of the NFL's best blocking tight ends who continues to improve as a receiver.

However, the Ravens often use multiple tight end sets and there's enough room for three tight ends to see ample playing time. Last season, Boyle played 769 offensive snaps (69.6 percent), while Andrews and Hurst played the exact number of snaps (457 snaps, 41.3 percent).

Here are three tight ends the Ravens could possibly target in the draft:

Hunter Bryant, Washington

Junior, 6-foot-2, 248 pounds; 52 catches, 825 yards, 3 touchdowns

He moved all over Washington's formations during college, creating mismatches with linebackers and defensive backs. Bryant has the pass-catching skills to fit into Baltimore's offense and take over the reps vacated by Hurst. This isn't a particularly strong tight end draft class, but some think Bryant is the best of the bunch. If he lingers into the third round, the Ravens have a pair of third-round picks they could use to grab a tight end.

Chase Claypool, Notre Dame

Senior, 6-foot 4, 238 pounds; 66 catches, 1,037 yards, 13 touchdowns

He played wide receiver in college but many scouts project him as an NFL tight end. The Ravens have inside information on Claypool after drafting one of his former teammates last year, wide receiver Miles Boykin. Claypool helped himself with a strong performance the Scouting Combine by running a 4.42 in the 40-yard dash and he was also sure-handed in the passing drills. His combination of size and speed resembles former Ravens tight end Darren Waller who had 90 catches for 1,145 yards with the Oakland Raiders last season.

In his four-round mock draft, Chad Reuter of NFL.com has Claypool going to the Ravens in the second round at No. 60.

"With a guy like Claypool, he's got really good size, obviously advanced as a route runner at his size and the types of things he can do, he's got strong hands," DeCosta said. "There have been many players over the years who started off as wideouts and then make a transition to tight end. Darren Waller for instance was a guy this year that we had who was able to do that effectively with the Raiders. I think Claypool is a guy that can play receiver, possibly play an H-back, tight end type of role as well. He's an interesting player with a lot of upside potential. Probably be a guy that gets picked sometime on the second day."

Thaddeus Moss, LSU

Junior, 6-foot-2, 250 pounds; 47 catches, 570 yards, 4 touchdowns

The son of Hall of Fame wide receiver Randy Moss, Thaddeus Moss showed a willingness to block in college, and that certainly meshes with what the Ravens want from tight ends. Moss also played in an NFL-style offense at LSU with quarterback Joe Burrow, who is expected to be the No. 1 pick.

In his seven-round mock draft, Walter Cherepensky of WalterFootball.com has Moss going in the third round to the Ravens at No. 92.

Ravens Draft Preview: Two Very Different Edge Rushers Emerge As Potential First-Round Targets

BALTIMORE SUN | APR. 15, 2020 | JONAS SHAFFER

The Ravens' highest-paid player in 2020 will probably be an edge rusher, but money buys only so much stability.

Pro Bowl outside linebacker Matthew Judon, designated last month with a franchise tag worth $16.3 million, has yet to sign the one-year tender or reach a long-term extension. Former second-round pick Tyus Bowser is entering the final year of his rookie contract. The versatile Jihad Ward re-signed with the Ravens this offseason, but only through 2020. Calais Campbell and Derek Wolfe, both defensive linemen on the wrong side of 30, are on short-term deals.

Only outside linebacker Jaylon Ferguson is under contract through at least 2021, and his playmaking potential is still uncertain.

Even if the Ravens don't add another edge rusher through free agency — and there's a handful of viable options still out there, from Markus Golden to Ezekiel Ansah to Pernell McPhee — they will certainly add at least one through the draft. Do they need their next Judon or Za'Darius Smith as much as they need their next C.J. Mosley or Marshal Yanda? Not yet, no. But it would be surprising if they wait to address the position next week.

In coordinator Don "Wink" Martindale's defense, his edge rushers, normally outside linebackers, are asked to do a little bit of everything. For now, some pass-rush production would help; the Ravens finished No. 21 in sacks last season (37) and No. 14 in ESPN's pass-rush win rate. But with Ohio State's Chase Young and LSU's K'Lavon Chaisson likely to be long gone when the Ravens make their first pick at No. 28 overall, here's how seven potential first- and second-round targets stack up, why they'd fit and why they might not.

1. Iowa's A.J. Epenesa

Why he'd fit: Despite somewhat limited playing time in 2018, Epenesa was one of the nation's most productive defensive ends over the past two seasons, with a combined 22 sacks and 31 tackles for loss. At 6 foot 5, 275 pounds, with his heavy hands, massive wingspan (81-plus inches) and revved-up motor, Epenesa was a pass-rush bully. His burst off the edge kept offensive tackles honest. His play strength and leverage helped him walk back blockers. His arsenal of pass-rush moves — bull rush, push-pull, club — was varied and well deployed.

Epenesa played mostly as the Hawkeyes' right defensive end, but his length and potential as an interior pass rusher would lend flexibility to the Ravens' line. While Campbell and Wolfe figure to get the lion's share of work at the three-technique alignment (lined up over a guard's outside shoulder) in 2020, neither player's long-term future in Baltimore is secure. Epenesa could set the edge on early downs before kicking inside and giving guards headaches.

Why he might not: Epenesa's skill set and work rate make him a high-floor prospect, but his poor NFL scouting combine raised questions about his ceiling. He ran a 5.04-second 40-yard dash — slower than Wolfe's 2012 mark (5.01 seconds), despite weighing 20 pounds less — and ranked as just above average for defensive linemen in the three-cone drill and 20-yard shuttle.

Epenesa's athleticism could make him a liability as an open-field finisher. It could also limit Martindale schematically. Epenesa rarely dropped into coverage at Iowa, and it's easier for offenses to key on certain edge rushers if they know one's incapable of even spying a mobile quarterback.

2. Wisconsin's Zack Baun

Why he'd fit: At the combine, Baun said that one NFL team he'd met with had called him " 'the toy' — a can-do-it-all linebacker." Few coordinators ask more of their outside linebackers than Martindale. Baun's senior season might as well have been a tailor-made audition. As a pass rusher, he finished with 12 sacks and the nation's eighth-highest pressure rate among edge rushers, according to Sports Info Solutions. He won with speed, bend and a variety of pass-rush moves, from two-handed swipes to arm-overs to spin moves.

Despite Baun's size (6-2, 238 pounds), he set the edge well and averaged about one run stop for every 10 snaps in run defense last season, according to Pro Football Focus, a standout rate among his peers. He's also experienced in coverage for an edge rusher, with nearly 200 snaps over the past two seasons. Baun, who had an interception and broke up four passes at Wisconsin, is raw but promising as an off-ball linebacker, where he practiced at the Senior Bowl.

Why he might not: If the Ravens spend a first-round pick on Baun, who likely won't fall out of the top 40, his rookie-year role could be limited. With Judon expected to return, Baun would have a hard time taking snaps from the team's incumbent at weak-side outside linebacker, his most natural fit in Martindale's defense.

Baun's too light to challenge Jaylon Ferguson on the strong side, and his size in general is a question mark. Of PFF's top-rated NFL edge rushers last season, only a handful weighed less than 260 pounds. The Minnesota Vikings' Danielle Hunter (6-5, 252 pounds) is considerably longer, and the Miami Dolphins' Kyle Van Noy (6-3, 250), a popular comparison for Baun, struggled early in his career before landing with the New England Patriots. Baun didn't win with power as a pass rusher, and it could also limit him as a run defender.

3. Penn State's Yetur Gross-Matos

Why he'd fit: Gross-Matos starred as a 4-3 defensive end for the Nittany Lions but has the tools to grow into any role in the Ravens' scheme. As a sophomore and junior, he racked up 17½ sacks and 35 tackles for loss, production that might've only hinted at his full potential. The 6-5, 266-pound Gross-Matos has a longer wingspan than Epenesa and might be as physically gifted as any incoming edge rusher not named Chase Young.

He'll enter the NFL as a more refined run defender than pass rusher, with room for improvement in both. When Gross-Matos can spring off the line and use his reach to unsettle linemen, there aren't many repetitions he can't win. His short-area acceleration makes him an intriguing weapon on stunts and as an interior pass rusher, where he had some success at Penn State.

Why he might not: Gross-Matos is more ball of clay than finished product. He often succeeded despite a slow get-off at the line of scrimmage last season, and he disappeared for long stretches of games. According to PFF, Gross-Matos finished with the nation's No. 85 pressure rate, suggesting that his breakout year was not as dominant as it appeared.

To become an every-down edge rusher, he'll have to learn how to generate more power. In the Ravens' system, Gross-Matos' acclimation to outside linebacker could prove most challenging in coverage, where he has almost no experience.

4. Alabama's Terrell Lewis

Why he might fit: The rough outlines of greatness are there with Lewis, a 6-5, 262-pound Washington native who has a first-round frame, great burst off the line of scrimmage, impressive lateral mobility and explosive traits (upper-tier combine testing in the vertical leap and broad jump).

In 2019, his first season in three years uninterrupted by injury, Lewis had six sacks and 11½ tackles for loss. His pressure rate of 19.8% last season ranks third in the draft class among edge rushers with 100 or more pass-rushing snaps, according to PFF. As Lewis continues to develop and return to full strength, he should be able to complement his speed rushes more effectively with power moves, especially his long-arm technique.

Why he might not: Injuries limited Lewis to just 26 games over his Crimson Tide career. As a sophomore, he tore an elbow ligament and missed 10 games. The following summer, he tore his right ACL. Lewis didn't run at the combine or do any agility drills, and his injury history could make his senior-year tape difficult to evaluate.

Lewis' game is full of caveats. About the only thing he did consistently well at Alabama last season was execute on stunts. Lewis has the length to anchor against tackles but not always the strength. He's explosive around the edge but struggles to convert it to power. He can chase down ball carriers in space, but only when he's mentally engaged.

5. Notre Dame's Julian Okwara

Why he'd fit: With his promising measurables and a productive two-season run for the Fighting Irish, Okwara profiles as a potential blue-chip pass-rush prospect, especially as an outside linebacker. The younger brother of Detroit Lions defensive end Romeo Okwara, he had the best pressure rate (19.1%) of any defender from 2018 to 2019 — higher than even Ohio State's Young (17.6%), according to PFF. He had two strip-sacks in one game last season and blocked a field-goal attempt in another.

The 6-4, 252-pound Okwara has long arms (almost 34½ inches), great speed (an unofficial 4.6-second 40-yard dash) and the frame to pack on good weight. At Notre Dame, he could rely on his acceleration and bend to beat tackles off the edge, even without much of a reliable counter. Okwara's toughness also kept him engaged on plays that others would have left for dead. He rarely dropped into coverage, but he showed some fluidity when he did.

Why he might not: A broken fibula ended Okwara's senior season, but his nine games last year were somewhat disappointing (four sacks and six tackles for loss). According to PFF, he was on pace for fewer quarterback hits, hurries and run stops than in 2018, when he had a career-high eight sacks and 12½ tackles for loss. Okwara can be a predictable pass rusher, and his inconsistent pop off the snap often took away his greatest strength.

Despite posting an impressive 27 repetitions of 225 pounds on the bench press at the combine — the only event he was healthy enough to participate in — Okwara was not a strong run defender. Tackles washed him out of his gap, and tight ends sometimes had

their way, too. Until he can reliably set the edge or show enough ability in zone coverage, Okwara will have to be a situational pass rusher.

6. Michigan's Josh Uche

Why he might fit: There might not have been a more underused pass rusher last season than Uche, who easily led the nation with a 26.1% pressure rate, according to Sports Info Solutions. On the 206 pass-rush snaps that PFF charted, he had a team-high eight sacks, 13 quarterback hits and 25 hurries.

The 6-1, 245-pound Uche fires off the line of scrimmage, but he had his best success when blitzing inside as a stand-up linebacker in 2019. His quick-twitch get-off and hip and ankle flexibility helped him dip by blockers, and he's able to convert speed to power with his good hands and pad level. Uche is competitive as a run defender, and his work rate helped him finish off plays from the weak side. Michigan didn't hesitate to rely on him in coverage, either, at times lining him up in the slot and asking him to cover receivers up the seam.

Why he might not: Uche has an 80-inch wingspan — 7 inches wider than he is tall — but he's small for an edge rusher, with a lean frame that's a liability in run defense against road-grading offensive linemen. If coaches want his playing weight closer to 260 pounds, he could lose his shot-out-of-a-cannon explosiveness, by far his best asset.

Injuries and experience are also concerns. Uche tore his meniscus in 2016 and had a stress fracture in his foot in 2017, and he wasn't more than a rotational player in 2018. His tackling and pass-rush moves should improve with more experience, but his struggles against the Big Ten's better lines last season are noteworthy. Against Iowa, he was tossed to the ground a few times.

7. Boise State's Curtis Weaver

Why he'd fit: Few edge rushers enter the draft with Weaver's track record: three straight seasons of at least 9½ sacks and 13 tackles for loss. As a redshirt sophomore in 2018, he won over 30% of his pass-rushing snaps and generated pressure on over 20% of his rushes, according to PFF. It took him just 32 games to break the Mountain West Conference record for career sacks.

What the 6-2, 265-pound Weaver lacks in top-end athleticism, he makes up for with instincts and timing. He feasted on outside rushes in particular, keeping his pads clean with well-timed swipes that gave him the space to slip past tackles and flatten his path to the quarterback. Weaver also mostly played as a stand-up rusher, a useful foundation for a move to outside linebacker.

Why he might not: Weaver dominated against schools from Group of Five conferences, but will his production translate to the NFL? After a two-sack performance against Oregon his freshman year, he had just six tackles and one sack in games the next two years against Power Five members Oklahoma State, Florida State and Washington.

Athletically, Weaver posted strong times in the combine's agility drills, but he chose to skip the 40-yard dash. Some scouts have also flagged his body composition; his physical conditioning might have affected his motor at times last season. In coverage and against the run, Weaver's below-average tackle radius and athleticism could be worrisome.

Other possibilities: Florida's Jonathan Greenard and Jabari Zuniga, Utah's Bradlee Anae, Tennessee's Darrell Taylor, Notre Dame's Khalid Kareem, Michigan State's Kenny Willekes

Ravens Could Draft An Offensive Lineman Early

BALTIMORERAVENS.COM | APR. 13, 2020 | CLIFF BROWN

Expect the Ravens to take at least one offensive lineman during the upcoming draft. The retirement of Pro Bowl right guard Marshal Yanda and center Matt Skura's ongoing recovery from a serious knee injury leaves the offensive line as a top priority.

Head Coach John Harbaugh said replacing Yanda is "job one or job two" this offseason, and it seems the Draft will be the main avenue to do so.

"Offensive line is something that we definitely want to address in this draft," General Manager Eric DeCosta said. "We see some talent in all the rounds."

The top three offensive line prospects in this year's draft are Mehki Becton of Louisville, Jedrick Wills Jr. of Alabama and Tristan Wirfs of Iowa. All could be top-10 picks and they are expected to be selected well before the Ravens' first-round pick at No. 28. Offensive linemen Andrew Jones of Georgia and Josh Jones of Houston are also expected to be off the board within the top 25.

"It'd be great if a guy in the first round that we thought was a really good player fell to us," DeCosta said. "But I think those guys go off the board. As we see in most drafts, those offensive linemen, they go very quickly in the first 15 or 20 picks. We've got to assess the players that we think will still be there. We definitely took on some water this year with Marshal retiring and with Matt Skura with his knee injury."

The Ravens believe the experienced teaching of Offensive Line Coach Joe D'Alessandris gives any young offensive lineman that the Ravens draft a chance to reach his full potential. Left tackle Ronnie Stanley and right tackle Orlando Brown Jr. have developed into Pro Bowl players under D'Alessandris' guidance.

The offensive lineman most mocked to the Ravens at No. 28 is center/guard Cesar Ruiz of Michigan. Michigan Head Coach Jim Harbaugh, can provide inside information to his brother after coaching Ruiz in college, and DeCosta likes what he hears and sees.

"He's a guy that plays on his feet, he's very smart, he's a got a good body, he's a very good athlete, he's got a good strong punch, he can anchor, he can play in space," DeCosta said. "Basically, he can do all the things you want a center to do. Obviously, our connection to Michigan, we feel like we've got an advantage where we can get information on these guys that we feel will help us make decisions. And we will always use that information to the best of our ability."

Ruiz played center at Michigan but is considered versatile enough to play guard in the NFL. He's widely considered to be the top interior offensive lineman in the draft.

Netane Muti of Fresno State could be on the Ravens' draft radar with one of their two second-round picks (No. 55 or No. 60). The 6-foot-3, 315-pound Muti excelled as a physical run blocker in college, which fits the Ravens' style. He put up the most bench press reps at the Combine (44).

Guard was Muti's best position in college, would make him a candidate to compete for a starting job as a rookie to replace Yanda. Muti's last two seasons have ended with injuries (torn Achilles, shoulder), which could raise concern. However, Mike Renner of Pro Football Focus thinks Muti is the best guard in the draft.

Louisiana-Lafayette's Robert Hunt is another guard the Ravens could target as a Day 2 pick, and he's even bigger (6-foot-5, 323 pounds) than Muti. Imagine Hunt and Pro Bowl right tackle Orlando Brown Jr. (6-foot-8, 345 pounds) playing side-by-side on the Ravens' right side, providing nearly 700 pounds of blocking.

With nine draft picks, the Baltimore has flexibility to trade up a few spots at any point to grab an offensive lineman it is targeting. The Ravens haven't signed an offensive lineman during free agency, nor have they traded for an offensive lineman this offseason. However, don't expect the draft to pass by without seeing the Ravens add at least one player to their offensive front.

The Ravens ran the ball more effectively, and more often than an NFL team last season. To continue running successfully, and help Lamar Jackson take the next step as a passer, the Ravens will need an offensive line that excels.

"Our offensive line is very important," Harbaugh said. "It's a very critical element of our team and our offense. It always has been. I think even more so now than ever – the way we're built. We need to be great up front."

Ravens Draft Preview: Who Will Replace Marshal Yanda?

BALTIMORE SUN | APR. 11, 2020 | CHILDS WALKER

For more than a decade, the Ravens enjoyed the luxury of building their offensive line around Marshal Yanda. Line him up at his familiar right guard and he'd deliver guaranteed Pro Bowl performance. Shift him to left guard or right tackle in a pinch and he'd handle those jobs as well. All the while, he helped mold the young blockers growing up around him.

When Yanda retired last month, he left a gaping and unfamiliar void at the heart of one of the NFL's best offenses. Ravens coach John Harbaugh recently said the eight-time Pro Bowl selection could not be replaced. But general manager Eric DeCosta must attempt to do just that in the upcoming draft. With center Matt Skura also facing uncertainty as he rehabilitates from a daunting knee injury, DeCosta faces no task more urgent than fortifying his interior offensive line.

The Ravens run more often and more efficiently than any team in the NFL, so they're looking for large, powerful blockers to lead the way. The 2020 draft class is rich in high-end tackle prospects, most of whom could shift inside to play guard, DeCosta said. But the top five players at the position — Tristan Wirfs of Iowa, Mekhi Becton of Louisville, Jedrick Wills Jr. of Alabama, Andrew Thomas of Georgia and Josh Jones of Houston — could all be off the board by the time the Ravens pick at No. 28 overall.

If that's the case, DeCosta might see better value in waiting until the second or third round to strike at this position of need. The 2020 offensive line class is not as lauded for depth as for premium talent, but the Ravens will have options as they search for a potential day-one starter. Here's a look at the players who might fit best:

Fresno State's Netane Muti

Why he'd fit: Muti is widely graded as the best pure guard in the class and plays with the power and nastiness the Ravens covet. He fired off 44 bench-press reps at the NFL scouting combine, yet was disappointed he did not break the record of 49. That workout strength translates to the field, where he manhandled college defenders.

Yanda delighted in run blocking, and the 6-foot-3, 315-pound Muti seems cut from the same cloth, slamming into defenders on pulls and maintaining contact until the whistle. He's also a sturdy pass blocker who plays with excellent leverage and strong hands.

Harbaugh and his staff often talk about "playing like a Raven," and Muti epitomizes that ideal on tape with his tenacity and obvious zeal for the grunt work of interior blocking.

Why he might not: With injury questions at center, the Ravens need a guard they can plug in without worry. And the biggest knock on Muti is his lack of durability. After he played 955 snaps as a redshirt freshman, he combined for just 318 over the last two seasons, which ended because of a torn Achilles and a shoulder injury, respectively. Were those injuries simply bad luck or indicative of a greater problem? DeCosta has said pandemic-related restrictions might make it harder to investigate health concerns. Could that be an issue with scouting Muti?

Beyond the injuries, Muti did not consistently play against elite competition in the Mountain West Conference. Scouts say his agility (an underrated strength for Yanda) does not match his strength.

Michigan's Cesar Ruiz

Why he'd fit: Ruiz is the best center in the draft and could offer good value for the Ravens if they want to hedge against the uncertainty caused by Skura's injury. He began his career at Michigan as a right guard, and though he was less effective there, he could probably adapt, as Bradley Bozeman has for the Ravens.

Scouts don't see Ruiz as an overpowering athlete, but he performed well across the board at the combine, and at 20, he's still young for a top prospect. More importantly, he matured into an excellent pass blocker while facing good competition at Michigan. Ruiz might not destroy the man in front of him, but he gets off the line quickly and maintains his blocks.

The Ravens have an accurate feel for him because of their ties to the Michigan program. "He's a guy that plays on his feet; he's very, very smart," DeCosta said. "He's got a good body. He's a very good athlete. He's got a good, strong punch. He can anchor. He can play in space. Basically, he can do all the things you want a center to do."

Why he might not: The Ravens love powerhouse linemen who thrive as run blockers, and Ruiz is not that at this point in his career, though scouts see room for growth.

It's also unclear whether they'd want to use one of their top picks on a center when Skura, who established himself as a quality starter last season, remains in the fold. Ruiz could play guard, but he's most valuable as a center. That was the context in which DeCosta listed his virtues.

Louisiana-Lafayette's Robert Hunt

Why he'd fit: The Ravens love big offensive linemen and the 6-foot-5, 323-pound Hunt certainly fits that bill. He started his college career at left guard but finished it at right tackle, where he excelled as both a run and pass blocker. When Louisiana-Lafayette stepped outside its conference to play better competition, he more than held his own.

Hunt moves well laterally for such a big man and uses his powerful hands to maintain blocks. But he's not a finesse player. He enjoys run blocking. Between his physical traits and aggressive demeanor, he might have the highest upside of all the interior-line prospects.

Why he might not: Hunt is less experienced in pass protection than many of his peers, and scouts see inconsistency in his footwork. A groin injury ended his senior season and also kept him out of the Senior Bowl and the combine. So he didn't get to make a closing argument for his draft status.

Wisconsin's Tyler Biadasz

Why he'd fit: Biadasz stood out as a three-year starter at center for one of the premiere offensive-line factories in college football. Top center prospects are often finesse players, but he made his reputation clearing space for Jonathan Taylor, one of the most productive runners in NCAA history.

Biadasz has quick, powerful hands, and as a polished prospect, he would give the Ravens immediate insurance against Skura's knee injury.

Why he might not: Scouts worry about Biadasz's lack of development as a pass blocker. He tends to lean with his upper body and lose his balance. Unlike Ruiz, he played center throughout college, and it's unclear whether the Ravens would use a second-day pick on a player with no track record at guard or tackle.

Ohio State's Jonah Jackson

Why he'd fit: Jackson bet on himself by transferring to Ohio State for his last season of eligibility after four years at Rutgers. The bet paid off as he won the starting left guard job and made first-team All-Big-Ten. He played right guard and center at Rutgers, so his versatility is established.

Jackson maintains excellent balance and awareness as a pass blocker. Scouts consistently praise him for recovering if he's initially beaten.

Why he might not: Jackson struggles to get low and generate power as a run blocker, which would make him less than ideal for the Ravens' bruising schemes. Some scouts see him as a flexible back-up more than a longtime starter at guard.

LSU's Damien Lewis

Why he'd fit: Lewis is a stout power blocker who thrived for the best team in college football last season. At 327 pounds, he plays with real killer instinct in the run game and overpowered SEC defenders when he was on form. More than one scouting report has compared him to a human forklift. He's also a good athlete for his size, as he demonstrated at the combine.

Every year, the Ravens talk about making their offensive line bigger and stronger. Lewis is a man for that mission.

Why he might not: Because of his modest height and inconsistent pass-blocking technique, Lewis lacks the versatility of some other interior-line prospects. Scouts question his ability to cover ground and adjust to the full spectrum of NFL blocking schemes.

Michigan's Ben Bredeson

Why he'd fit: Bredeson has been linked to the Ravens in many a mock draft and it's easy to understand why, given that he started all four years for a college program to which they're closely linked. He's an unusually consistent blocker whose 6-foot-5, 320-pound frame

would suit the Ravens' desire for big linemen. If DeCosta addresses other needs in the first three rounds, Bredeson could still be available as a solid value in the fourth.

Why he might not: Despite his ideal size for a guard, Bredeson was not an overpowering run blocker at Michigan. Scouts wonder if he's too slow out of his stance to hold up against high-end NFL defensive linemen.

Other possibilities: Clemson's John Simpson, Kentucky's Logan Stenberg, Georgia's Solomon Kindley, Washington's Nick Harris, Michigan's Michael Onwenu

Small-School Prospects? Baltimore Ravens Say They Have Them Covered Despite Disrupted Draft Process

PENNLIVE.COM | APR. 11, 2020 | AARON KASINITZ

Lockdowns and travel restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic have upended the NFL's pre-draft process, with colleges canceling pro days and teams shutting the doors of their facilities.

And many onlookers wonder whether the adjustments will leave small-school prospects at a disadvantage. Players from historically black colleges and universities or other less heralded programs typically don't get the chance to play in high-profile games during the season.

In a normal year, pro days and trips to team headquarters offer those prospects a chance to stand out.

But the key decision-makers within the Baltimore Ravens front office say there's no reason to worry that they'll miss out on a hidden talent. Rather, director of player personnel Joe Hortiz said his staff routinely spends the football season studying players at schools of all sizes, not just SEC and Big Ten powerhouses.

"Our scouts are at schools all throughout the fall — they're in HBCUs, they're in D-IIs, and they're in D-IIIs," Hortiz said. "We have a number of guys who we've talked about over the course of this scouting season from those types of schools. So, they've been evaluated. Maybe we haven't been to their pro days, but again, our scouts do a great job of getting information.

"We have the film on all of them, we are able to get the [evaluations] and they are going to get the opportunities one way or another, whether it's through being drafted or post-draft free agency. "

The Ravens also often sign players they invite to rookie minicamp on a tryout basis, and they'll continue to look at prospects even after the draft, Hortiz said.

It's unclear how long a coronavirus lockdown could keep NFL teams off the field, and without an offseason program, young players would miss out on opportunities to showcase their talents to coaches. For now, the Ravens believe they've looked in every crevice leading up to the draft.

That doesn't mean business is running as usual.

Without access to some pro day workouts, the Ravens have leaned more heavily on their analytics department, according to Hortiz and general manager Eric DeCosta. They've even had staffers try to estimate how fast a prospect would run a 40-yard dash so they can better compare players.

As far as finding players, the Ravens say that's mostly up to the scouts. And Hortiz has confidence that even during a pandemic, the franchise has addressed any potential blind spots.

"Historically, we've done a good job with the guys that aren't invited to the combine and non-all-star guys," Hortiz said. "Our scouts do a great job of getting the information from their sources at the schools – the trainers, the strength coaches. ... So I think we can get the information necessary."

Ravens Draft Preview: At Wide Receiver, A Deep And Diverse Class Can Offer Something For Everybody

BALTIMORE SUN | APR. 10, 2020 | JONAS SHAFFER

The Ravens have known for a while what kind of wide receivers they want to acquire. And, if you believe general manager Eric DeCosta, they're also prepared to wait a while in this month's NFL draft to get one.

In a conference call Thursday, DeCosta told reporters that with the "prolific" number of high-quality prospects in this potentially historic wide receiver class, "there's a really good chance to get a guy that can probably be a starter" as late as the fifth round.

Little is known about the Ravens' draft plans at wide receiver except that they plan to select at least one. Like inside linebacker, it's a position of urgent need. Rookies Marquise "Hollywood" Brown and Miles Boykin and second-year pro Jaleel Scott combined with veterans Willie Snead IV and Chris Moore last season for 1,148 receiving yards; 12 wide receivers around the NFL finished with more yardage in 2019.

"We have a really good feel for the type of receivers we want to bring in," coach John Harbaugh said at the team's season-ending news conference in January. "Without letting the cat out of the bag too much, we want a certain type of guy, and we want a certain type of other guy that would fit us. And we'll be looking hard for those guys."

They don't have to look too hard. Unless the Ravens trade up, four wide receivers — Oklahoma's CeeDee Lamb, Alabama's Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III and LSU's Justin Jefferson — are expected to be off the board before No. 28 overall. But the sheer volume of options elsewhere is as notable as their diversity of skill set.

With one of their three top-60 picks, the Ravens could target a security blanket, a matchup problem or a deep threat and find great value. Here's how nine potential wide receiver targets stack up, why they'd fit and why they might not.

Security blanket
Clemson's Tee Higgins (No. 3 overall)

Why he'd fit: Calling Higgins a possession receiver would be like calling an iPhone a telephone; they do that job well enough, but there's so much more to both. At 6 feet 4 and 216 pounds, with vine-like 34-inch arms, Higgins knows how to leverage his long stride, imposing size and jump-ball ability to make difficult catches look easy.

That includes deep shots, too. Higgins averaged nearly 20 yards per catch during a 1,167-yard season as a third-year junior last year. He's not a burner, as evidenced by his 4.54-second 40-yard dash at Clemson's Pro Day, but Higgins eats up space quickly on downfield routes. According to Pro Football Focus, he had 15 catches for 565 yards last season on "deep" throws — any pass of at least 20 air yards past the line of scrimmage — both top-10 marks nationally.

Why he might not: Higgins happened to play in one of the nation's most dynamic offenses the past two seasons, and with maybe the sport's most talented quarterback, Trevor Lawrence. That can help mask weaknesses, such as a limited route tree, underdeveloped upper body and occasional sluggishness at the line of scrimmage.

USC's Michael Pittman Jr. (No. 5)

Why he'd fit: Pittman, the son of the former NFL running back, has maybe the surest hands in the draft. Over four seasons of steadily improved production, culminating last year with 101 catches for 1,275 yards and 11 touchdowns, he had just five drops on 176 career "catchable" passes, according to PFF. (That's one drop for every 35 passes; only three Ravens wide receivers were even targeted 35 times last season.)

With his 6-4, 223-pound frame, Pittman can overpower cornerbacks for contested catches. But he's a surprisingly slick route runner, too, capable of sinking his hips and getting out of his breaks with little wasted motion. After showing good straight-line speed (4.52-second 40) and great short-area quickness (second-best 20-yard shuttle) at the NFL scouting combine, Pittman's drawn physical comparisons to Pro Bowl receivers Mike Evans and Kenny Golladay.

Why he might not: Considering Pittman's ball skills, catch radius and special teams contributions (three blocked punts), his floor is pretty high. Still, there's room for improvement in how Pittman handles press coverage. And with how rarely he played inside for the Trojans, escaping to the slot probably won't be a consideration early in his career.

Pittman's late-career breakout season and lack of top-end speed also raise questions about his next-level potential.

Matchup problem
Colorado's Laviska Shenault Jr. (No. 6 overall)

Why he'd fit: In Brown, the Ravens already have a wide receiver who can run by defenses. The 6-1, 227-pound Shenault does that, too. But he can also run through them. His 44 missed tackles over the past two seasons are the most by a receiver in the draft class, according to PFF. He earned his longest reception in 2018 with a stiff arm and his second longest last season with a spin move.

Most intriguing is his versatility. Shenault lined up at all three wide receiver positions, tight end, halfback and as a Wildcat quarterback for the Buffaloes. In his sophomore year, he caught over 80% of his targeted passes, thriving as a screen game weapon. Last year, he lined up primarily as an outside receiver and averaged 13.6 yards per reception with a 70% catch rate.

Why he might not: If injuries explained Shenault's drop-off in production from a breakout 2018 (87 catches for 1,019 yards in nine games) to a ho-hum 2019 (56 catches for 764 yards), another offseason operation won't ease durability concerns. As a sophomore, he tore his labrum and suffered a turf toe injury. Last year, he missed two games with a core-muscle injury that required surgery after the combine.

Shenault's not considered a polished route runner, so if his speed and power are diminished, his value falls sharply. His bowling-ball approach lends itself to further injury risks, too.

South Carolina's Bryan Edwards (No. 7)

Why he'd fit: Edwards played on the nation's 12th-least efficient passing offense last season — for reference, Maryland's was 11th worst — and still finished with 71 receptions for 816 yards and six touchdowns, including a couple of "SportsCenter"-worthy catches. In only his second season returning punts, he also averaged 17.9 yards on seven returns, which would've ranked second in the Southeastern Conference had he qualified.

With a well-built 6-3, 212-pound frame, Edwards was a three-level threat for the Gamecocks. In a loss to Alabama last season, he bowled over defenders on two jet sweep shovel pass plays, beat future top cornerback pick Patrick Surtain II over the middle in press coverage three times and dusted possible first-round pick Trevon Diggs on a vertical route. (Of course, that last pass ended up being well overthrown.)

Why he might not: Edwards has shown the versatility to play as a slot or outside receiver, but over half of his catches last season came on screen passes, according to PFF. Even with his strength and hand-fighting skills, it'll be hard to uncover against cornerbacks at the next level on intermediate routes if he's not a threat over the top.

Injuries have also become a question. A late-season knee injury forced Edwards to miss two games and the Senior Bowl, and he broke his foot in late February while preparing for the combine.

Notre Dame's Chase Claypool (No. 9)

Why he'd fit: If the Ravens want to find a replacement for tight end Hayden Hurst and add speed to their receiving corps, why not bet on a prospect who could grow into either role? In an attention-grabbing combine performance, the 6-4, 238-pound Claypool finished in the 86th percentile or better among wide receivers with a 4.42-second 40-yard dash, 40½-inch vertical jump and 19 repetitions of 225 pounds on the bench press.

Claypool shared the spotlight last season with current Raven Miles Boykin, a wide receiver he's often compared to, before turning in a dominant senior year (66 catches for 1,037 yards and 13 touchdowns). The British Columbia native impressed on contested-catch opportunities, where his toughness and catch radius are obvious, and added value as a run blocker and special teams contributor.

Why he might not: If Claypool's going to make it as a wide receiver, he has to show he can separate with more than just his size and speed. (Boykin learned that lesson as a rookie.) Strong cornerbacks won't hesitate to jam him at the line of scrimmage.

If Claypool's going to make it as a tight end, he'll probably have to put on weight and prove his in-line blocking skills. And to make it at either position, his hands must be more consistent.

Deep threat
Texas Christian's Jalen Reagor (No. 1 overall)

Why he'd fit: In 2017, Reagor won Big 12 Conference Co-Offensive Freshman of the Year honors. In 2018, he had all the makings of a future top-10 pick. On a Horned Frogs offense that cycled through three quarterbacks, the 5-11, 206-pound Reagor finished with 72 catches for 1,061 yards and nine touchdowns. With his contributions as a runner and returner, he amassed over 1,400 all-purpose yards.

His father, Montae, played as a defensive tackle for nine seasons in the NFL, but Jalen has superstar potential. As a sophomore, Reagor regularly won battles for contested catches, and drops weren't much of a problem. As a junior, his top speed on a 93-yard touchdown catch was clocked at over 22 mph — elite, even for the NFL. At the combine, he recorded the second-best vertical jump and broad jump among receivers. He has the acceleration to sell downfield routes and the quickness to win in space.

Why he might not: Reagor's 2019 is a red flag. With wretched quarterback play — according to PFF, only 30.7% of his targets last season were considered accurate throws — Reagor's production unsurprisingly suffered. He had just 43 catches for 611 yards and five touchdowns.

Reagor seemed to let TCU's passing struggles affect his game at times. As a run blocker, he could be disengaged. After dropping just five catchable balls in 2018, Reagor had seven drops last year, according to PFF. And there's still room for improvement elsewhere as a receiver, from his route diversity to his play strength.

Arizona State's Brandon Aiyuk (No. 2)

Why he'd fit: Aiyuk was one of the nation's most explosive receivers last year. In a 65-catch, 1,192-yard season, he stacked up chunk plays, with seven receptions of 50-plus yards (tied for third most in the country) and three receptions of 70-plus yards (tied for second most). His open-field ability was evident in his special teams production, too, taking back a punt for a touchdown and averaging nearly 32 yards on kickoff returns.

The 6-0, 205-pound Aiyuk has an 81-inch wingspan — almost as big as 6-5 Calvin Johnson's — and comes out of his breaks with impressive speed. With only two years of Division I experience, the former junior-college recruit still has plenty of room for development.

Why he might not: Aiyuk has the quick feet to develop into a great route runner, but the Sun Devils kept it mostly simple for him last year. Nearly half of his targets, according to PFF, came on go routes and screens. Whether Aiyuk projects as an outside or slot receiver, he'll need to show he can win at the line of scrimmage and on contested-catch opportunities more often.

Medical concerns have also emerged this offseason. He failed a physical at the Senior Bowl, recovered in time to participate at the combine, then reportedly underwent core-muscle surgery Tuesday.

Baylor's Denzel Mims (No. 4)

Why he'd fit: Mims consistently produced in the Bears' pass-happy attack, posting nearly 3,000 yards over three seasons and drawing attention for his highlight-reel sideline and red-zone catches. And maybe no receiver has had a better predraft process.

He was almost unguardable at the Senior Bowl, beating cornerbacks with execution on his releases and routes rarely seen at Baylor. At the combine, the 6-3, 207-pound Mims showed elite speed (4.38-second 40-yard dash), explosiveness (fourth-best broad jump among receivers) and agility (position-best three-cone drill). With his athletic profile, awesome catch radius and eagerness to pancake defenders as a blocker, he can win along the sideline on play after play.

Why he might not: Before his Senior Bowl performance, Mims' fairly static development since a 1,087-yard sophomore season was cause for concern. He had 794 yards in 2018 and 1,015 last year, with a career-high 66 catches and 12 touchdowns.

For all of his circus plays, Mims had lapses in concentration on simpler opportunities. He dropped 11 catchable passes in 2018, according to PFF, and seven last year. And while his deep speed is a weapon, creating opportunities on go and stop routes, he didn't show great suddenness to get open laterally or elude defenders in the open field last season.

Penn State's KJ Hamler (No. 8)

Why he'd fit: Eager to build a track team around quarterback Lamar Jackson, the Ravens targeted speed on offense in last year's draft. Had Hamler not tweaked a hamstring in training, the former track and field star would have challenged Alabama's Henry Ruggs III for the combine's fastest overall 40-yard dash (4.27 seconds).

Hamler's quick-twitch athleticism makes him a menace on offense and special teams. He finished with 904 receiving yards last season (16.1 per catch), including eight touchdowns, and had five games with at least a 40-yard reception. On both catch-and-runs and vertical routes, Hamler flew past Big Ten Conference defensive backs as if they were standing still. In 2018, he earned all-conference honorable mention as a returner.

Why he might not: If Hamler remains a slot receiver, where he played almost exclusively at Penn State, getting open shouldn't be a problem. It's what comes next that's most worrisome. Despite average hand size, Hamler had 12 drops on 70 catchable passes last season, according to PFF; his career drop rate is a woeful 16.9%.

At the combine, Hamler measured in at 5-9, 178 pounds — 12 pounds heavier than Brown did last year, but still far from sturdy. Run blocking will be an uphill battle, and quarterbacks targeting Hamler have a smaller throwing window with his limited wingspan.

Eric DeCosta's Take On Kenneth Murray And Patrick Queen

BALTIMORERAVENS.COM | APR. 9, 2020 | CLIFF BROWN

If you haven't heard the names Kenneth Murray and Patrick Queen, you haven't been following Ravens draft talk.

Since February, Murray and Queen have been the two inside linebackers most consistently linked to the Ravens in mock drafts. But which would be a better fit for Baltimore's defense? And will they be available at pick No 28, or would the Ravens need to trade up?

Many mock drafts have had one or both linebackers off the board by the time the Ravens are on the clock. General Manager Eric DeCosta said he expects both to go in the top 40 picks.

"It really just depends what flavor you like, Murray or Queen," DeCosta said during a Thursday conference call. "I think they're looked at side by side as probably two of the very best inside linebackers."

Inside linebacker is one of the Ravens' thinnest positions in the aftermath of Josh Bynes signing with the Cincinnati Bengals and Patrick Onwuasor signing with the New York Jets. There is obvious room for a three-down inside linebacker to fill the void left by C.J. Mosley, the four-time Pro Bowler who departed to the Jets in free agency last year.

It's possible the Ravens may find an inside linebacker later in the draft who can earn playing time as a situation player. DeCosta named inside linebacker as one of the draft's deeper positions. However, Murray and Queen are viewed as the inside linebackers with the potential to start from Day 1 as Mosley did as a rookie.

There's no doubt Murray would feel at home in Baltimore's locker room. He'd be the fifth Oklahoma player drafted by the Ravens over the past two years, joining Pro Bowl tight end Mark Andrews, Pro Bowl right tackle Orlando Brown Jr., wide receiver Marquise Brown and offensive lineman Ben Powers.

Murray also has an incredible life story that leaves no doubt about his special character. He has saved a stranger's life by performing CPR, and he has three siblings with special needs.

However, drafting a defensive player from Oklahoma would be a different twist for the Ravens. The Sooners have struggled defensively in recent years and gave up 27.3 points per game last season, including three games in which they yielded at least 40 points. But Murray was by far Oklahoma's best defensive player with 102 tackles, 17 tackles for loss and four sacks. DeCosta has watched enough tape on Murray to know that he was special on a defense that wasn't.

"Tremendous athlete, a cerebral guy, he's got really good length," DeCosta said. "He's been a really good defensive player on a team that really hasn't had a lot of really good defensive players lately. He's a great student of the game, he's got great intangibles."

Murray (6-foot-2, 241 pounds) is more of a throwback linebacker, bigger than Queen (6-foot-0, 229 pounds) but also a playmaker. Queen was a little faster at the Scouting Combine, running a 4.50 in the 40-yard dash compared to 4.52 for Murray. They both suffered hamstring pulls.

DeCosta thinks Murray and Queen fit the mold of what NFL defenses are looking for, and he did not see Queen's size as a deterrent. He made 85 tackles including 12 for loss at LSU, showing his ability as a blitzer with three sacks while also excelling in pass coverage.

"Not as big as Murray, (but) very explosive," DeCosta said. "LSU has put a number of really good defensive players in the league over the last four or five years. He's a guy that's sideline to sideline, he can play downhill, he's a very good cover linebacker.

"He was not a household name before this year. He played his best football probably over the second half of the season, really good performances in the playoffs and national championship."

Whether the Ravens draft Queen or Murray remains to be seen. But both players have the overall qualities NFL teams are looking for.

"I think the league has kind of morphed into more of a speed league in some respects, guys that can run, cover, and blitz and do all those things." DeCosta said. "But you also need a guy that can effectively play the run and take on guys. In a perfect world you'd like to have a bigger guy, but you're also looking for a bigger guy who can run."

Ravens Feel They Could Find A Starting Wide Receiver In Fifth Round

BALTIMORERAVENS.COM | APR. 9, 2020 | RYAN MINK

Those who want to see the Ravens trade up for a stud wide receiver, or take one in the first round at all, might be disappointed during this year's NFL Draft.

The depth of the wide receiver class could leave the Ravens, a team looking to bolster its unit, hunting for bargains.

On Monday, General Manager Eric DeCosta said this year's wide receiver class is "prolific" with 25 draftable players at the position. Three days later, DeCosta emphasized that point further.

"I think it's just the amount of really good players in the draft at that position. In most years, you probably expect those players to fill up the first three rounds," DeCosta said. "We think this year that there's a really good chance to get a guy that can probably be a starter for you in the fifth round of the draft."

DeCosta said he expects Oklahoma wide receiver CeeDee Lamb to be "long gone" before the Ravens are on the clock at No. 28, and it could require too much draft capitol to even move up and get him.

The two other wide receivers at the top of the class are Alabama's Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III. They will likely also be off the board in the top 20 picks.

Other potential first-round wideouts who could be closer to where the Ravens pick include LSU's Justin Jefferson or Clemson's Tee Higgins. Baylor's Denzel Mims, Colorado's Laviska Shenault Jr., and Arizona State's Brandon Aiyuk have also been projected as potential first-round picks by some analysts.

With strong showings during this year's pre-draft process (before it was cut short by COVID-19), Mims flew up draft boards and is now being viewed as a potential first-round selection. The Athletic's Jeff Zrebiec selected the big-bodied, physical wideout for Baltimore in a recent mock draft.

"We saw guys at the Senior Bowl that, heading into that week we thought would be later-round guys, and they shine at the Senior Bowl and became really good prospects," DeCosta said.

But with so much depth in this year's class, will the Ravens draft any receiver in the first round?

"This year, we have a lot of guys highly rated in the first four, five, six rounds," DeCosta said. "It's exciting for a team that needs receivers because you feel like you have an opportunity to really add an impact guy all the way through the draft."

Other Day 2 or Day 3 wide receivers include Notre Dame's Chase Claypool, TCU's Jalen Reagor, Penn State's K.J. Hamler, Kentucky's Lynn Bowden, USC's Michael Pittman Jr., South Carolina's Bryan Edwards, Florida's Van Jefferson, and Texas' Devin Duvernay – and there's a lot more.

"Sheer numbers-wise, for whatever reason, this year is kind of stacked," DeCosta said.

Ravens Seem Unlikely To Buy Into "One Player Away" Trade-Up Mindset

WNST | APR. 9, 2020 | LUKE JONES

Believing you're "one player away" can be a dangerous mindset for a team unless talking about needing a franchise quarterback, which is all that matters when lacking one.

Yes, making the big splash in free agency or even the rare blockbuster trade at the deadline provides buzz and instant gratification, but it's too often a delusion of grandeur. The same danger applies this time of year when teams — and their fans — fall in love with a particular prospect or a specific position of need in the first round of the draft. The truth is that the impact of even the best non-quarterbacks often won't justify the lucrative cost that can be required to move up so many spots to draft the player.

The idea of aggressively "going for it" just isn't always what it's cracked up to be. Ask the Los Angeles Rams as they come off a non-playoff year, lost some key players due to being tight against the salary cap this offseason, and aren't scheduled to have another first-round pick until 2022.

With seven selections in the first 150 picks of this year's draft and nine choices overall, Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta was asked the seemingly annual question about trading up from the 28th overall pick in the first round during a Thursday conference call. It's no secret the Ravens want to address inside linebacker, edge defender, wide receiver, and the interior offensive line, but DeCosta also regards this as a deep draft in which multiple picks will be more valuable.

Baltimore certainly isn't in need of a quarterback after trading back into the first round two years ago to draft Lamar Jackson, who became the first man in franchise history to be named league MVP last season. When you're picking as late as the Ravens, moving up more than a few spots in the first round won't come cheap.

"I understand people love the idea of trading up to get a guy, but in general, historically, if you look at all those trade-ups, it's 50-50," DeCosta said. "You've got to look at what you give up to get a guy and those picks and how those picks turn out. People want to point to the Julio Jones trade that the Falcons made [in 2011], and that was an unbelievable job by them getting a guy like that.

"But in general, trading up is dangerous. It's a little bit risky. I like to have 10, 12, 14 picks in every draft, all things being equal. But if there's an elite player available, we'd be foolish not to consider that."

It's easy to get caught up in some idea of the Ravens being "one player away," but they already have the makings of a Super Bowl-caliber team after going 14-2 and dominating in the regular season last year. Rather than overextending themselves trading draft capital to select a "star" — who's never guaranteed to actually be one, mind you — the Ravens are more likely to benefit from a goal of coming away with two or three solid-to-good starters and a few useful role players using their deeper collection of picks that offer a wider margin for error. One of those players could always turn out to be the real star anyway, which is what makes the draft so much fun.

Such a deep draft haul would be critical beyond just 2020 as the clock ticks on Jackson's rookie deal and fellow All-Pro selections Ronnie Stanley and Marlon Humphrey are also in line for market-setting contract extensions. Yes, DeCosta wants to put the Ravens in the best possible position for 2020, but the draft is about maximizing value and adding as much quality, low-cost talent as you can for the years ahead, especially when the salary cap will become a greater concern.

The Ravens have enjoyed much draft success over the last 25 years, but they've also had downswings and average stretches — the years immediately following Super Bowl XLVII come to mind — as DeCosta has described picking players as more art than science in the past. We know a good number of the prospects nearly every pundit is currently lauding as future NFL standouts won't be for a variety of reasons.

"The draft in and of itself, there's definitely a luck component," DeCosta said. "You may be surprised to hear me say that, but I do believe that. I think a lot of different studies would say that — a lot of different papers that I've read on the draft and various things. From that standpoint, you're always better off having more picks than less picks. If you trade up, you give up picks, so you better get a guy that's going to be a difference-maker."

Of course, this isn't to say DeCosta won't plot a move up the draft board, especially a more moderate climb in which the Ravens see a player really standing out from the others available in terms of perceived value. There's always that balance between risk aversion and being bold, between quality and quantity. You don't want to be Mike Ditka trading an entire draft for Ricky Williams, but that doesn't mean swapping your first-round pick for Day 2 and 3 selections is the answer either.

There are exceptions, of course, but paying too much markup to move up for a non-elite player at a position of great depth in this draft (wide receiver) or at a spot that simply doesn't offer as much positional value (inside linebacker) just wouldn't seem wise.

"These guys in the first round, there's a wide variety of grades," DeCosta said. "A guy like [Ohio State defensive end] Chase Young, if he starts to slip in the draft and we thought we might be able to get him, obviously yes, try to trade up and get him because of our grades on Chase Young. Every player is totally different."

And few seem to fit the description that would prompt the Ravens to trade away their collection of picks.

Ravens' Draft Goal: Make Record Offense 'Undefendable'

ESPN | APR. 9, 2020 | JAMISON HENSLEY

Revolutionary? That's so 2019 for Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens.

General manager Eric DeCosta set a new goal heading into an NFL draft, where the Ravens must infuse more young talent into the NFL's highest-scoring offense.

"Hopefully we can build our offense to the point where -- as we say, to be undefendable," DeCosta said at the team's pre-draft news conference.

While it's incredibly bold, it was only nine months ago that coach John Harbaugh was mocked for predicting the Ravens would usher a new era of offense. Baltimore backed that up by scoring a league-high 30.4 points on offense behind Jackson, the unanimous NFL Most Valuable Player.

To keep lighting up the scoreboard, this has the makings of being a more offense-heavy draft than one would expect from a team returning 10 starters on that side of the ball. This offseason, the Ravens lost two key contributors -- Pro Bowl guard Marshal Yanda retired and tight end Hayden Hurst was traded to Atlanta -- and they didn't add much in free agency outside of re-signing reserve wide receivers Chris Moore and De'Anthony Thomas.

Even though Baltimore might use an early pick on a pass-rusher or inside linebacker, the storyline of the Ravens' 2020 draft should be adding more difference-makers around Jackson. Baltimore can realistically come out of this draft with a wide receiver or two, a couple of offensive linemen (perhaps someone who can compete at Yanda's old spot at right guard), a running back and a tight end.

Harbaugh has talked about the need for this offense to evolve, and recent history shows it will be hard for the Ravens to repeat last season's success unless they upgrade through the draft, which has produced five offensive starters for them the past two years. The highest-scoring offenses in the past five years in the NFL have fallen to fifth or worse the following year. Nine of the past 10 highest-scoring offenses have scored fewer points the next season. Over past 10 seasons, the average drop-off for the highest-scoring offense has been 5.76 points.

Now, imagine how much more electric the Ravens could be with Clemson wide receiver Tee Higgins pulling in a contested Jackson pass in the end zone or Georgia running back D'Andre Swift breaking free for a 50-yard score. Picture how much more powerful Baltimore can become with an offensive lineman like Houston's Josh Jones or Michigan's Cesar Ruiz delivering key blocks.

With the draft two weeks away, here are three key areas on offense where the Ravens could use an early-round pick:

Wide receiver: Throughout the offseason, the Ravens haven't expressed any urgency when talking about wide receivers, even after their wide receiver group produced the fewest yards (1,419) since the 2011 Jacksonville Jaguars. In free agency, Baltimore passed on Emmanuel Sanders and Robby Anderson. As far as the draft, team officials emphasize the depth of the position -- "prolific," is how DeCosta described it -- as a reason this might not be Baltimore's top pick.

Baltimore is hopeful that Marquise Brown will be more consistent a year removed from foot surgery and third-round pick Miles Boykin will make a big jump in his second season. But the Ravens will grab a wide receiver at some point in the draft, and it could come in the first round depending on how it unfolds.

According to ESPN Stats & Information's NFL Draft Predictor, the most likely pick for Higgins, a big target receiver who became the only Clemson player to ever record 10 touchdown catches in consecutive seasons, is at the Ravens' No. 28 spot. Other possibilities include LSU's Justin Jefferson (if he slips), Arizona State's Brandon Aiyuk, Baylor's Denzel Mims and Colorado's Laviska Shenault Jr.

"This happens to be a wide receiver class with a lot of really good players, and if we're on the clock and we think that guy is the best player, we'll probably pick him," DeCosta said. "I know our scouts have found some guys they're excited about at the wideout position. So, we'll just see how it falls."

Interior offensive line: One of the NFL's top offensive lines from last year has some question marks at right guard (Yanda retirement) and center (Matt Skura is still recovering from significant knee surgery). The Ravens have in-house options from last year's rookie class to fill those voids in guard Ben Powers and center Patrick Mekari.

Last season's entire starting offensive line was homegrown. Baltimore has typically found effective blockers late in the draft or with undrafted prospects. The Ravens have selected only one offensive lineman (Ronnie Stanley) in the first two rounds since winning the Super Bowl in the 2012 season.

But Harbaugh made it clear that the offensive line is a priority in this year's draft. First-round prospects include Jones and USC's Austin Jackson, two college tackles who could slide inside, and Ruiz, the draft's top-ranked center and a three-year starter under John Harbaugh's brother Jim at Michigan.

"We're going to have to really do a great job there," Harbaugh said. "That's one of the biggest challenges. It's probably job [number one or two]. We've got to make sure that we do a great job of making sure the interior offensive line is all set. ... We've got to look at all the players, try to find the best fits."

Running back: To many, this seems like a long shot after the Ravens set an NFL record for most rushing yards in a single season and return their top three running backs. But Mark Ingram II turns 31 by the end of this season, Gus Edwards is an unrestricted free agent next offseason and Justice Hill looked more like a change-of-pace back than a feature back.

The only running back with a greater than 50% chance of going in the first round is Swift, according to ESPNs' Draft Predictor. In his three seasons at Georgia, no running back averaged more scrimmage yards per touch than Swift (6.9). Taking the draft's top running back with its first pick would give Baltimore its own set of triplets in Jackson, Brown and Swift for years to come.

"We feel like we have a really good group of running backs on our team, and it'll just basically be who's available when we pick," DeCosta said. "There are certainly running backs all throughout the draft in each round -- first round all the way through the seventh round -- guys that we think have the opportunity to come in and help us be the best team we can be, and we'll look at that."

Division-By-Division Look At Each NFL Team's Needs Before The Draft: AFC North

YAHOO SPORTS | APR. 8, 2020 | TEREZ PAYLOR

NFL teams have spent the past few weeks adding talent via free agency, but not all holes can be filled that way. Each team has some pressing needs remaining, and we're going division-by-division to analyze those needs and perhaps figure out which directions teams are leaning heading into the draft.

AFC NORTH

Baltimore Ravens
Positions needed: LB, EDGE, WR, G, RB

Analysis: The Ravens don't have many holes and their trade of tight end Hayden Hurst for second- and fifth-round picks enabled one of the NFL's deepest teams to stockpile more assets. They have five draft selections in the first three rounds. They can use their first-round pick on an off-ball linebacker, where they could certainly use a premium talent. And with three edge defenders set to become free agents in 2021, it also wouldn't be a surprise to see Baltimore invest in a draft-thin position early, all with an eye toward the future. Beyond those two spots, giving Lamar Jackson more to work with is always a good plan. So taking another receiver — perhaps of the slot variety, someone who can be groomed behind Willie Snead IV — would work, and so would taking another power blocking guard with starting potential who could replace future Hall of Famer Marshal Yanda, who retired this offseason.

Cincinnati Bengals
Positions needed: LB, G, QB, TE, OT

Analysis: After a miserable 2-14 season, Cincinnati attacked its offseason with a desire to get better defensively. Their free agent additions included several immediate starters like nose tackle D.J. Reader, corners Trae Waynes and Mackensie Alexander and safety Vonn Bell. There are still massive holes on the roster, including linebacker, where the Bengals need a difference-maker in the worst way, and interior offensive line. Upgrading at quarterback, of course, would also provide the quickest shot in the arm to a franchise in desperate need of one, and supporting Joe Burrow with help at tight end, offensive tackle and receiver should be mandatory.

Cleveland Browns
Positions needed: OT, LB, G, WR, DT

Analysis: The Browns are essentially one offensive tackle away from having a potentially terrific offense. The free agent additions of tight end Austin Hooper and right tackle Jack Conklin are excellent choices for new coach Kevin Stefanski's play-action offense that features lots of two-tight end sets. Still, there's a need for increased depth at wide receiver behind Jarvis Landry and Odell Beckham Jr., and perhaps a guard who can push Wyatt Teller. Defensively, the Browns fortified their tackle spot with the addition of Andrew Billings, but he's only on a one-year deal and a difference-maker inside would go a long way to making the front four fearsome. The biggest hole on defense is actually at off-ball linebacker, where Cleveland parted ways with Christian Kirksey and watched Joe Schobert land in Jacksonville. There are some talented young players (Sione Takitaki and Mack Wilson) in the mix, but there is absolutely a need for a bonafide playmaker on the second level.

Pittsburgh Steelers
Positions needed: WR, G, EDGE, LB, DT

Analysis: The Steelers' championship hopes in 2020 could come down to whether they keep Ben Roethlisberger upright. And while the left guard position — the weakest on the offensive line — was fortified with the free agent signing of Stefen Wisniewski, it would be ideal if the Steelers draft a younger option to take over in 2021 or sooner. Beyond that, the Steelers are an injury away from uncertainty at receiver, and given Roethlisberger's age and tendency to uncork the deep ball, finding a deep threat in this draft should be a priority. On defense, the free agent departure of Javon Hargrave stings. And while Tyson Alualu was effective last year and Chris Wormley could figure into the mix, it doesn't inspire confidence that Baltimore traded him within its division. Given the physical nature of the AFC North, finding another interior lineman with upside would be a boon, as would drafting an edge rusher who can provide insurance in case Bud Dupree flees via free agency in 2021. Finding an off-ball linebacker who can provide backup for now and be developed into an eventual starter next to Devin Bush Jr. would be nice as well.

Ranking The Ravens' Five Biggest Needs Headed Into The NFL Draft

NBC SPORTS WASHINGTON | APR. 8, 2020 | ANDREW GILLIS

Though the Ravens' run through free agency went as well as could reasonably be expected for a team without bundles of money to burn, they're still left with a few holes on the roster headed into the NFL Draft.

The Ravens have nine picks in the draft, which begins on April 23, seven of which come in the first four rounds. There, general manager Eric DeCosta said he expects the Ravens to be able to get players that can contribute immediately with the team's first seven picks.

Here are a few of the most pressing needs on the roster with just over two weeks until the draft begins.

Baltimore selections are: 28th, 55th, 60th, 92nd, 106th, 129th, 134th, 170th, 225th overall.

Inside linebacker
The ranking of the needs can be varied a little bit, but this stands as the Ravens' biggest hole on the roster.

It's a position they didn't address in free agency, and Josh Bynes and Patrick Onwuasor left for other teams. L.J. Fort is the only off-ball linebacker with starting experience. He's backed up by special teams linebacker Chris Board and Otaro Alaka, who was placed on injured reserve before Week 4 by the Ravens.

Last season, the Ravens used Chuck Clark heavily at the linebacker position in a lot of sub-package roles. That will likely happen once agai with the return of Tavon Young and a bolstered defensive front on the way, but the Ravens won't be able to use Clark as their de facto middle linebacker for forever.

If Monday's conference call with reporters was any indication — which could mean anything — the Ravens don't need to take a linebacker that can be on the field for all three downs, or a linebacker in the early rounds. Instead, they can find a one or two in the mid-rounds with a specialized trait and build packages around him for one or two downs.

"I think when we look at the board, there's obviously guys who can do all three things — play the run, cover and blitz — but I think when we look at the guys throughout the draft, there are players that can help us in specific roles," director of player personnel Joe Hortiz said. "There are guys in the mid-rounds that can come in and cover, maybe play the run."

Interior offensive line
The Ravens interior offensive line isn't in the best shape right now. In fact, they might need to add two or three different pieces to the entire line before next season begins.

"You've certainly got guys," DeCosta said Monday. "There are some tackles that we think can play inside, play guard. There are some really good guards (and) some centers in this draft. I think we've shown in the past that we can find guys in the second, third, fourth, fifth rounds, offensive linemen who can come in and play."

With Ronnie Stanley and Orlando Brown Jr. the bookends at both tackle spots, the interior of the Ravens' offensive line is in a state of flux. Left guard Bradley Bozeman played well last season, but the two spots to his right are still up in the air.

Center Matt Skura is still recovering from a significant knee injury where he tore his ACL, MCL and PCL in late November. He also suffered a dislocated kneecap. Patrick Mekari played admirably in his absence, but only started five regular season games in his rookie season.

Then, legendary guard Marshal Yanda announced his retirement and left a hole at right guard. For now, Ben Powers figures to be the one to replace his spot along the line, but Powers has just one game of experience in his NFL career.

The Ravens also cut reserve tackle James Hurst, a versatile offensive lineman who could fill in at four of the positions along the line. Meaning, the Ravens could enter the 2020 season with a center and a right guard who have played, including playoffs, a combined seven games.

Expect the Ravens to add multiple picks along the line, even extending out to the tackle position as well. Backup tackle Andre Smith is 33-years-old, so some youth could be needed there as well.

"So, we're going to have to really do a great job there," coach John Harbaugh said. "That's one of the biggest challenges. It's probably job one or two. We've got to make sure that we do a great job of making sure the interior offensive line is all set. How you do it, you do it the old way. We've got to look at all the players, try to find the best fits."

Edge-rusher
This ranking of need can be debated as well, but the Ravens need another pass-rusher on the outside to go with Matthew Judon and Jaylon Ferguson.

Teams can always use more pass-rushers, and the Ravens are no different in this case. Judon is coming off a Pro Bowl season where he registered 9.5 sacks and 33 quarterback hits — both team highs. The Ravens placed the franchise tag on him in the offseason, which will pay him just over 16 million dollars. After him, though, the Ravens had a noticeable drop in production..

Ferguson, a rookie, slowly found his role throughout the season and finished with 2.5 sacks and nine quarterback hits. Tyus Bowser placed second on the team in sacks and quarterback hits with five and 10, respectively, but the Ravens could be without two of their top five leaders in sacks last season in 2020.

The situation with Judon's contract only adds to the need, as the Ravens quite simply might not be able to afford Judon long-term, should he have a breakout season. With not much depth on the roster behind Judon, Bowser and Ferguson, adding to that is paramount.

While the defensive line additions of Derek Wolfe and Calais Campbell should help mightily with the pass rush, the Ravens could still use another body on the edge.

Wide receiver
In a draft class loaded with talented wide receivers, the Ravens have a lot of options. Those options could include trading up in a loaded year for wide receivers to get their guy, or trading back to take one of many on the board.

DeCosta said 25 players on the Ravens' draft board will be wide receivers. But the Ravens have options in terms of when, and how, they want to select their receiver — or receivers.

"We like our receivers, first and foremost," DeCosta said of the current roster. "I think Miles (Boykin) and Marquise (Brown) and Willie (Snead IV) and we brought Chris Moore back, Jaleel (Scott) — we have some guys that we think are going to make another jump. We really like that room. So, do we feel the urgency? We probably feel that with every position."

As it stands now, the Ravens wideout room is led by two players entering their second seasons. Brown played all of his rookie season, a year in which he finished second on the team in receptions with an injured foot. He's expected to be healthy for his second season in the league. Boykin, after a strong training camp, struggled to break through and caught 13 passes for 198 yards. But in his second year in the league, there's hope he can develop into a strong possession wideout.

The Ravens have got a talented stable of pass-catchers with Brown and Andrews leading the way, so the need for a talented third option to emerge is big for the development of the Ravens' offense.

"We want to be the best we can be at every single position," DeCosta said. "This happens to be a wide receiver class with a lot of really good players, and if we're on the clock and we think that guy is the best player, we'll probably pick him."

Defensive line
The Ravens added to this position most in the offseason, so it might seem surprising for this to be on the list. But a deeper dive indicates it's more of a need than originally thought.

Baltimore's starting defensive front next season will consist of Campbell, Wolfe and Brandon Williams. After that, though, the proven depth begins to fade. And there's even question marks with the starters.

Wolfe, Williams and Campbell are all over the age of 30, and Wolfe has played all 16 games just once since 2014. He maintains his healthier now than he was in Denver, but the concern won't go away until he hits the field.

From there, the depth chart has Jihad Ward, Justin Ellis and Daylon Mack as backup linemen. The unit could use an influx of talent, and youth, to a position that could have some big holes to fill rather quickly.

Ravens Draft Preview: Patrick Queen, Kenneth Murray Or Someone Else At Inside Linebacker?

BALTIMORE SUN | APR. 6, 2020 | JONAS SHAFFER

For an organization that prides itself on its scouting and player development, the Ravens outdid themselves at inside linebacker last season.

Josh Bynes and L.J. Fort, two midseason pickups who helped fortify the middle of the defense, were undrafted. Patrick Onwuasor, who had an up-and-down 2019, was undrafted. Special teams contributor Chris Board? Undrafted. Rookie Otaro Alaka? An undrafted free agent. There was maybe no positional group on the team with less pedigree.

That will change soon, out of necessity more than anything. The Ravens will draft an inside linebacker, and probably two, in this month's draft. With the departures of Bynes and Onwuasor in free agency, only Fort (11 career starts), Board (78 career defensive snaps) and Alaka (no NFL appearances) remain. It is by far the weakest link on a defense dotted with potential Pro Bowl players.

The Ravens' challenge entering the draft is twofold. First, they must figure out what kind of inside linebacker they need in their defense. Oftentimes last season, they lined up on obvious passing downs without one, instead relying on safety Chuck Clark as a dime linebacker. With no C.J. Mosley available, coordinator Don "Wink" Martindale's exotic schemes filled the box with every player at his disposal.

Equally important is figuring out how to get that high-impact linebacker. It could be as simple as waiting. When the first round reaches the Ravens' No. 28 overall pick, it's possible that both LSU's Patrick Queen and Oklahoma's Kenneth Murray, the draft's top two

prospects at the position after Clemson's Isaiah Simmons, could still be on the board. With nine picks overall, general manager Eric DeCosta has the draft capital to move up. If the Ravens' draft board falls their way, he might even trade down.

No decision might be harder than the one with the fewest options: Queen or Murray? One might be the better prospect; the other might be the better long-term fit. Here's how the Ravens' best options at inside linebacker stack up, why they'd fit and why they might not.

1. LSU's Patrick Queen

Why he'd fit: Queen, who capped a breakout junior season with defensive Most Valuable Player honors in the Tigers' College Football Playoff championship, looks and plays nothing like Ray Lewis and Mosley, the only inside linebackers taken in the first round in the Ravens' draft history.

At a safety-sized 6 feet, 229 pounds, Queen profiles as a new-age prospect. With a 4.5-second 40-yard dash (fourth fastest among linebackers at the NFL scouting combine) and 125-inch broad jump (eighth best at the position), he compares physically to the Minnesota Vikings' Eric Kendricks, a first-team All-Pro selection who played every defensive snap in nine games last season.

Queen has similar three-down potential. Despite not starting until LSU's fourth game last season, he finished the year third on the team with 85 total tackles, including 12 for loss, along with three sacks and an interception. Over the Tigers' final four games, including the Southeastern Conference championship and their two CFB matchups, Queen had seven tackles for loss and 2½ sacks.

On a Ravens defense that embraces positional flexibility, Queen could be a centerpiece. In coverage, he's shown the skills to carry wide receivers into deep zones, blanket running backs coming out of the backfield and spy on mobile quarterbacks. (Hello, Joe Burrow?) As a blitzer, he has the acceleration, change of direction and tenacity to puncture pockets.

Even in run defense, where Queen would be most vulnerable at the next level, he plays with the intelligence, lateral quickness and technique to stay a half-step ahead of onrushing linemen.

Why he might not: The Ravens' historic run ended in part because their veteran defense couldn't contain a bulldozer of a running back. If they get a rematch with the Tennessee Titans and Derrick Henry this season, or any opponent with a power-running game, would an undersized rookie linebacker really be part of the solution?

Even against more conventional offenses, there are questions of fit with Queen. At LSU last year, he played almost exclusively as a weak-side inside linebacker — the position the Ravens' most experienced returner, Fort, is best suited for. Could Queen, who won't turn 21 until August, grow into a middle linebacker? There's room to fill out, but too much added bulk will do more harm than good.

Queen's most glaring weaknesses — his play strength and inconsistent tackling — will need to be addressed before he becomes an every-down linebacker. If handling high-end SEC talent was difficult at times, just wait until the Kansas City Chiefs come to town.

2. Oklahoma's Kenneth Murray

Why he'd fit: The 6-2, 241-pound Murray is 2 inches taller and 12 pounds heavier than Queen, and still they're peers athletically. He ranked among the combine's top eight linebacker prospects in the 40-yard dash (4.52 seconds), bench press (21 repetitions of 225 pounds), vertical jump (38 inches) and broad jump (129 inches).

He's been more productive than Queen, too. Over three years and 42 starts for the Sooners, Murray became the Big 12's Co-Defensive Freshman of the Year, the Football Bowl Subdivision's third-leading tackler and a third-team All-American. While his tackle production fell last season, Murray still finished with a career-high 17 tackles for loss, including four sacks.

With his sideline-to-sideline speed, high motor and thumping physicality, Murray put together one of the nation's most impressive 2019 highlight reels. In the open field, he brought down wide receivers on clothesline tackles. He ducked past linemen and warded off tight ends to make plays behind the line of scrimmage. He even beat a Texas Tech left tackle on an outside speed rush for a sack.

In the Ravens defense, playing behind linemen Brandon Williams, Calais Campbell and Derek Wolfe, Murray could be a downhill force at middle linebacker. His sturdy frame — Murray's already bigger than Lewis and Mosley were coming into the draft — makes him a better second-level fit with Fort and Clark than Queen.

Murray's greatest asset, and possible trump card, might be his character. He was named a team captain at Oklahoma as a true sophomore. When he helped resuscitate a woman after a July car crash, Murray's father, a preacher, didn't hear about the good deed until two weeks later. At the combine, Murray told reporters he was studying five to six hours of film every day. That's the kind of dedication that can turn a weakness into a strength.

Why he might not: The NFL's most popular personnel grouping features three wide receivers and a tight end. Almost half the league's teams passed more than 60% of the time last season. If a team wants a linebacker in the first round, it had better be sure he can play every down — even third-and-long.

Murray's value is unclear because so is his ability in coverage (six career passes defended). While he took a step forward last season, he was not asked to do much. Against the Big 12 Conference's line of dual-threat quarterbacks, Murray was often deployed as a spy, lurking near the line of scrimmage. In zone coverage, he sometimes looked like a fish out of water, unsure of his surroundings. His responsibilities in man coverage were limited, though his athleticism offers a high ceiling.

Murray's success will hinge on his mental processing of the game. NFL offenses attack overaggressive linebackers with play-action and misdirection, but Murray was most successful at Oklahoma when he dictated terms. Can he find a happy medium?

3. Ohio State's Malik Harrison

Why he'd fit: The former high school quarterback steadily improved in his four years with the Buckeyes, earning first-team All-Big Ten Conference honors last season with a team-high 75 tackles (16½ for loss) in 14 starts. The 6-3, 247-pound Harrison has the size and strength of an outside linebacker — one physical analogue might actually be the Ravens' Tyus Bowser — but developed into a throwback middle linebacker for Ohio State.

Harrison's ability to diagnose run schemes, fill gaps and shed blocks should translate well to the NFL, and his growth last season in coverage and as a pass rusher (4½ sacks) offers hope that he can develop into a reliable every-down inside linebacker. As a late-second-round pick, Harrison would be a sound investment. If the Ravens could get him in the third, he'd be a bargain.

Why he might not: Harrison's combine testing (a solid 4.66-second 40-yard dash and a position-best 6.83-second three-cone drill) suggests there's room for improvement in coverage, where he's been somewhat limited. According to Pro Football Focus, Harrison gave up 17 catches, 220 yards and two touchdowns on 25 targets last season.

As with Murray, Harrison's downhill tendencies leave him vulnerable on play fakes, but he's noticeably slower and less fluid in his recoveries.

4. Oregon's Troy Dye

Why he'd fit: The 6-3, 231-pound Dye is the only player in Ducks history to lead the team in tackles in four straight seasons, twice topping 100 stops. In both zone and man coverage, he's one of the draft's more promising linebackers, showing impressive range, disruptive length and good anticipation. A productive blitzer with explosive finishing pop, Dye could project as a weak-side or middle linebacker in Baltimore.

Why he might not: Dye has a lanky frame and skinny lower body, which means he'll run into trouble when he can't get his hands on a blocker first. He's also slow to read his keys and attack in the running game. Dye can contribute immediately on special teams, but if the Ravens take him with a Day 2 pick, they'd expect more out of him as a rookie.

5. Appalachian State's Akeem Davis-Gaither

Why he'd fit: Davis-Gaither was a do-everything defender for the Mountaineers, lining up as an edge rusher, off-ball linebacker and slot cornerback. At the Senior Bowl, he moved over to inside linebacker and was named one of the South team's standout players. At the combine, he weighed in at 6-1, 224 pounds and didn't run because of a stress fracture in his foot. That lingering injury made Davis-Gaither's senior year only more impressive: 104 tackles (14½ for loss), five sacks, eight pass breakups and one interception.

Why he might not: What worked in the Sun Belt Conference might not work at the next level — at least not right away. (Just ask the Ravens' Jaylon Ferguson, a Louisiana Tech product.) Davis-Gaither's tweener size is most evident in his struggles to stack and shed blockers, and his repetitions in man coverage are a question mark. His versatility should appeal to the Ravens, but they'd have to be convinced of his work in run defense to use a Day 2 pick.

Other possibilities: Texas Tech's Jordyn Brooks, Mississippi State's Willie Gay Jr., Wyoming's Logan Wilson, Colorado's Davion Taylor, Michigan State's Joe Bachie, Utah State's David Woodward, Purdue's Markus Bailey

Ravens Mock Draft 1.0: WRs Tough To Resist Early; Lack Of LBs Forces Early Calls

THE ATHLETIC | APR. 2, 2020 | JEFF ZREBIEC

When the NFL Draft begins in three weeks, Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta and a few other members of the organization will assemble in a virtual war room for a draft that promises to be like none they've ever experienced.

The COVID-19 pandemic has wiped out pro days and scuttled pre-draft visits, forcing teams to rely on other means of collecting information on prospects. With stay-at-home orders in effect and franchise headquarters currently closed throughout the league, team decision-makers will likely have to run the three-day draft at a remote location, like the owner or general manager's living room or at a local bar or restaurant.

But the show will go on, and all 32 teams face the same challenges.

The Ravens have nine total picks: one in the first, fifth and seventh rounds, and two each in the second, third and fourth rounds. Their list of needs hasn't changed much since the start of the offseason as their only outside additions have been defensive linemen Calais Campbell and Derek Wolfe.

They need reinforcements to their wide receiving and linebacker corps and the interior of their offensive and defensive lines. Depth is also needed at tight end and safety.

In my first foray into mock drafting — and I don't mean this year, I mean ever — I was able to fill most of the Ravens' needs although I emerged with a few laments as well.

As a novice, I let The Draft Network simulator lead me through the seven rounds, although the Ravens picks were my own, based on my knowledge of the team, its needs, and its drafting history. I did not include potential trades, and I think we all know that DeCosta, a wheeler-and-dealer to the core, will move back or forward, or perhaps both in the same round, at some point in the three-day affair.

The Ravens very much adhere to the best player available, so there surely will be surprises, but here goes nothing …

First round (28th overall): Denzel Mims, WR, Baylor

Also considered: Ross Blacklock, DT, TCU; Yetur Gross-Matos, OLB, Penn State; Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson; Josh Jones, OT, Houston; D'Andre Swift, RB, Georgia

What I'm calling the Ravens' worst-case scenario for the night of April 23 unfolds. The draft's top four receivers — Alabama's Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III, Oklahoma's CeeDee Lamb and LSU's Justin Jefferson — are all off the board by pick 20. The three top inside linebackers — Clemson's Isaiah Simmons, LSU's Patrick Queen and Oklahoma's Kenneth Murray — are also gone. I could see the Ravens trading up a few spots to get the player they covet, but moving up 10 spots would cost too much draft currency to fill their holes.

So onto Plan B, or is it Plan C? Wisconsin linebacker Zach Baun and Michigan center Cesar Ruiz also were taken in the few picks before the Ravens. At this point, the best player available approach leads me to Jones or Swift, but they play two of the Ravens' strongest positions, so common sense prompts me to take Mims.

The highly-productive Baylor receiver caught 28 touchdown passes and averaged nearly 16 yards per reception in his last three college seasons. At 6-foot-3 and 206 pounds and with long arms and a wide catch radius, he's the big, physical and explosive receiver the Ravens need to complement speedster Marquise Brown on the outside. Mims will need to improve his route running, but he makes contested catches in traffic, and he routinely muscles cornerbacks on 50/50 balls. He also has the physical and aggressive mentality to become a solid blocker, and we know that matters in the Ravens' run-oriented offense.

Second round (55th overall, acquired from Falcons in Hayden Hurst trade): Terrell Lewis, OLB, Alabama

Also considered: Brandon Aiyuk, WR, Arizona State; Clyde Edwards-Helaire, RB, LSU; Robert Hunt, G, Louisiana-Lafayette; Joshua Uche, OLB, Michigan

It's tempting to grab Aiyuk here, but I can't see the Ravens taking receivers with their first two picks after they did that with two of their first three selections last year. I also can't realistically see the Arizona State playmaker being available 23 picks into the second round.

The Ravens need another edge rusher, and this draft doesn't feature too many of them who project to make a significant impact immediately. They have had success with Day 3 pass rushers like Pernell McPhee, Za'Darius Smith and Matthew Judon, but you can't bank on doing that every year. The later this draft gets, the less I like their chances of unearthing a gem.

The Ravens love Alabama players, and they also like explosive and athletic pass rushers off the edge. Lewis is still raw, and injuries cost him the better part of two years at Alabama. However, he had six sacks and 11 ½ tackles for loss in just 10 games last year, and he has the size and all the tools to become a quality edge rusher at the next level. Plus, he played the strong-side linebacker spot in Alabama's 3-4 defense, so it shouldn't be a huge adjustment for him.

Second round (60th overall): Robert Hunt, G, Louisiana-Lafayette

Also considered: Cam Akers, RB, Florida State; Jordyn Brooks, ILB, Texas Tech; Nick Harris, C, Washington;

With a wide receiver and edge rusher in tow, the Ravens' two biggest remaining needs are interior offensive line and inside linebacker. They have seven more picks to fill them, but the inside linebacker and offensive guard classes aren't especially deep. It seems likely they have to strike here to fill one of those spots.

It comes down to Hunt and Brooks, and it might be a bit on the early side for each. However, Hunt fits the Ravens perfectly. He's big (6-5, 323 pounds), athletic and nasty. He loves to run block and he plays through the whistle. He played both tackle and guard as a four-year starter in college, but he figures to settle at guard in the NFL, and the Ravens have a clear need there following the retirement of Marshal Yanda and the release of James Hurst.

Third round (92nd overall): Willie Gay Jr., ILB, Mississippi State

Also considered: Chase Claypool, WR, Notre Dame; Alohi Gilman, S, Notre Dame; Netane Muti, G, Fresno State; Michael Pittman Jr., WR, USC

I'm already doing what the Ravens consistently avoid in that I'm focusing too much on needs rather than just grabbing the best player and figuring out the rest later. But I can't get past the fact that the Ravens, a team that featured Ray Lewis and then C.J. Mosley, have a depth chart at inside linebacker that includes only one player (L.J. Fort) who has ever started an NFL game. Behind him are Chris Board, who has played almost exclusively on special teams, and Otaro Alaka, a college free agent who spent much of last year on injured reserve.

Projections on Gay have been all over the map, and that's partly because there are some off-the-field red flags. However, he also has the characteristics of a three-down middle linebacker. He plays with speed and explosiveness. He's not only a big hitter, but he's a sure-handed tackler. He also can hold his own in coverage. He can be inconsistent and undisciplined, and he'll need to be developed. The Ravens, though, have a pretty good track record of developing linebackers. This is a boom-or-bust type pick, but the Ravens can afford to take a few chances.

Third round (106 overall, compensatory selection): Michael Pittman Jr., WR, USC

Also considered: Tyler Biadasz, C, Wisconsin; Chase Claypool, WR, ND; Ezra Cleveland, OT, Boise State; Brandon Jones, S, Texas; Thaddeus Moss, TE, LSU

At this point, the Ravens have checked off their biggest needs, but there's plenty of value to be had. Heading into this draft, I think the two positions the team could double up at are wide receiver and offensive line. There are still quality options available at each spot, but Pittman, who had 101 catches for 1,275 yards and 11 touchdowns in his last season at USC, is too hard to resist.

He's big (6-4, 223 pounds), and he doesn't have dynamic speed, but he's plenty fast enough. He has reliable hands and makes plays in traffic. He also is an aggressive run blocker and plays special teams. You can certainly make the case that after drafting Mims in the first round, the Ravens should add another speed guy rather than a physical possession receiver. But more than anything, the Ravens need reliable targets, and Pittman is that.

Fourth round (129 overall, acquired from Patriots in Jermaine Eluemunor trade): Antoine Brooks, S, Maryland

Also considered: Javelin Guidry, CB, Utah; Anthony McFarland, RB, Maryland; Alton Robinson, OLB, Syracuse; Logan Stenberg, IOL, Kentucky.

Chalk this up as a sentimental pick if you will because of the Maryland connection, but Brooks is a solid player and safety is an underrated need for the Ravens. Earl Thomas isn't getting any younger, and DeShon Elliott is still a relative unknown because he's battled injuries. Ravens defensive coordinator Don "Wink" Martindale also uses Chuck Clark in the dime linebacker role, which creates an opening for another safety.

Brooks exhibits some qualities that the Ravens love. He's physical, plays with a nonstop motor and is a football junkie. He also projects as a standout special teams player. He probably doesn't have the range or speed to succeed as a deep safety, but the Ravens can play to his strengths. This is also the fourth round, and by now, all of the available players have a few significant question marks. As tempting as it was to select McFarland, his Terps' teammate, Brooks has a much better chance with of getting on the field and contributing immediately in Baltimore.

Fourth round (134 overall): Josiah Scott, CB, Michigan State

Also considered: Alex Highsmith, OLB, Charlotte; Colby Parkinson, TE, Stanford; Jason Strowbridge, DL, North Carolina

Do the Ravens really need another corner? Probably not. They have Marlon Humphrey, Marcus Peters, Tavon Young, Jimmy Smith and two recent fourth-round picks, Anthony Averett and Iman Marshall. But they take a cover guy just about every year, and it's usually within the first four rounds.

In five consecutive drafts, the Ravens have picked a corner within the first four rounds, so I'm playing the percentages here rather than targeting another position where depth is needed more. Scott, who is 5-9 and 185 pounds, is undersized and he's had some injury issues. But he's extremely quick and explosive. His Spartan teammates called him "The Gnat" because of his persistence in coverage. The Ravens need some insurance in the slot for Young, who has had injury issues, and Scott fits the mold.

Fifth round (170 overall, acquired from Vikings for Kaare Vedvik): Colby Parkinson, TE, Stanford

Also considered: Tyler Clark, DL, Georgia; Trevon Hill, OLB, Miami; Alex Taylor, OT, South Carolina St.

We're at the point of the draft where it's appropriate to re-evaluate. The Ravens have added two receivers, an interior offensive lineman, an edge rusher, a middle linebacker and two defensive backs. They've taken care of the priority items. But they still could use a developmental offensive tackle, a No. 3 tight end and some more beef along the defensive line. With two picks remaining, they obviously can't grab all three of those items. I've also all but ruled out another running back. It's an overstated need and you can find backs anywhere, including in undrafted free agency.

It's considered a very weak tight end class, but Parkinson has the goods to step in and help the Ravens both on offense and special teams. At 6-7 and 250 pounds, he should be able to handle blocking responsibilities with continued coaching. He also should ultimately become a factor in the passing game. He had 12 touchdown catches in three seasons at Stanford and he caught 48 balls this past season. Parkinson would be a nice third tight end beyond Mark Andrews and Nick Boyle.

Seventh round (225 overall, acquired from Jets for Alex Lewis): John Penisini, DT, Utah

Also considered: Keith Ismael, San Diego State, OL; James Smith-Williams, OLB, N.C. State

Developmental offensive tackle or defensive line depth? At this point, the quality of player available is about the same as what the Ravens will be looking at in undrafted free agency. Penisini, though, does have some upside and it's worth taking a shot because of his size.

Penisini is 318 pounds and he'd get an opportunity to push Daylon Mack, a fifth-round pick last year, for a reserve role behind Brandon Williams. Penisini won't give you much in the way of pass rush, but the Ravens like to have a big-bodied run-stuffer or two on the backend of their roster.

Two-Round Ravens Mock Draft: Finding Value And Versatility At Their Most Glaring Positions Of Need

BALTIMORE SUN | MAR. 30, 2020 | JONAS SHAFFER

After a two-week period in which the Ravens traded for a Pro Bowl defensive end (Calais Campbell), traded away a former first-round tight end (Hayden Hurst) and moved on from a previously durable defensive lineman because of injury concerns (Michael Brockers), the Ravens' roster needs are clear and salary cap space is limited.

Even with defensive end Derek Wolfe agreeing to a one-year deal Saturday, general manager Eric DeCosta has five pressing needs entering next month's draft: wide receiver, interior offensive line, defensive line, edge rusher and inside linebacker. Some holes are more glaring than others — the Ravens have just three inside linebackers, for instance, none of them especially accomplished.

With nine picks, including three among the first 60 overall, the Ravens don't have to get desperate to get better. Here's a look at who might fit under their best-player-available approach, with five potential options at positions of need ranked by value.

First round (No. 28): LSU inside linebacker Patrick Queen
Considering that the Ravens' depth chart at inside linebacker features a first-stringer who hadn't started more than two games in a season until last year (L.J. Fort), a third-year special teams contributor (Chris Board) and an undrafted rookie who didn't play at all in 2020 (Otaro Alaka), the team needs immediate help here.

Queen, an athletic and instinctive prospect, though undersized and inexperienced, could fill the Ravens' biggest need and be their highest-value selection. The 6-foot, 229-pound Queen started 12 of his 15 appearances for the Tigers last season, posting 85 tackles (12 for loss), three sacks and an interception. Even if he's taken before No. 28, the Ravens might prefer the more productive Kenneth Murray, a three-year starter at Oklahoma, or the more versatile Zack Baun, a pass-rushing terror at Wisconsin with off-ball potential.

Edge rusher: Iowa's A.J. Epenesa. The Ravens will have to reconcile his all-star production (31 tackles for loss and 22 sacks over two seasons) with his unimpressive measurables (a sub-5.0-second 40-yard-dash time and average agility marks). The 6-foot-5, 275-pound Epenesa was considered a first-round lock a month ago, and now he could go after Penn State's Yetur Gross-Matos, possibly slipping to the 30s.

Defensive line: Texas Christian's Ross Blacklock. The son of a former Harlem Globetrotter, he bounced back from a season-ending Achilles tendon injury in 2018 to post nine tackles for loss and 3½ sacks last season. The 6-3, 290-pound Blacklock is flexible and disruptive as a pass rusher, especially in one-on-one battles, but he has to make strides as a run defender.

Wide receiver: Baylor's Denzel Mims. With LSU's Justin Jefferson now probably out of the Ravens' range at No. 28 and Colorado's Laviska Shenault Jr.'s recent core muscle injury hurting his stock, Mims seems like the position's most likely late-first-round pick. The 6-3, 207-pound Mims had nearly 3,000 career receiving yards for the Bears, and his strong Senior Bowl and combine performances boosted his credibility as a No. 1 option.

Interior offensive line: Michigan's Cesar Ruiz. He's considered the draft's top interior lineman, and likely the only pure guard or center prospect worthy of first-round consideration. Ruiz started at both guard and center for the Wolverines, and his power and agility would make him a plug-and-play fit in the Ravens' running schemes. He's not a consensus first-round pick yet, but he wouldn't be on the board for long if he's still available come Day 2.

Second round (No. 55): Auburn defensive lineman Marlon Davidson
The first-team All-Southeastern Conference selection would make a fine long-term replacement for Brockers. While there's some uncertainty as to whether the 6-3, 303-pound Davidson projects best as an edge rusher or an interior lineman at the next level, the Ravens embrace flexibility and schematic diversity on defense.

As a defensive end on a line headlined by all-everything tackle Derrick Brown, Davidson led the Tigers with 12½ tackles for loss and 7½ sacks. With his strength, he dominated smaller players while setting the edge, and his powerful bull rush complemented his mix of counters and moves. Davidson also showed a knack for blocking kicks.

Wide receiver: Penn State's K.J. Hamler. A tweaked hamstring kept the 5-9, 178-pound speed demon from running the 40-yard dash at the combine, but Hamler said he's run it as fast as 4.27 seconds. Despite his size, it's easy to see a team falling in love with his potential as a slot receiver and returner and grabbing him in the 40s or 50s. Hamler had 56 catches for 904 yards (16.1 yards per catch) and eight receiving touchdowns last season.

Inside linebacker: Ohio State's Malik Harrison. Limited experience and range in coverage will keep Harrison from the position's top tier, but he has the tools to be an impact run defender and blitzer. Last season, he posted 75 tackles (16½ for loss) and 4½ sacks. Harrison has a well-built frame (6-3, 247 pounds), good athleticism (4.66-second 40) and useful experience at several positions.

Edge rusher: Michigan's Josh Uche. At 6-1, 245 pounds, Uche is a prototypical tweener. And with just nine starts over his four years with the Wolverines, there's not a huge sample size. Still, his pressure rate of 26.1% was the best in Division I last season, according to Sports Info Solutions, better than even Ohio State star Chase Young's.

Interior offensive line: Louisiana-Lafayette's Robert Hunt. A four-year starter for the Ragin' Cajuns, Hunt finished his career as a right tackle after two seasons at left guard. He allowed only two pressures on 196 pass-blocking snaps in 2019, according to Pro Football Focus, before suffering a groin injury. The 6-5, 323-pounds Hunt is a fluid athlete with room for improvement in his technique and footwork.

Second round (No. 60): Notre Dame edge rusher Julian Okwara
The brother of current Detroit Lions defensive end Romeo Okwara had a somewhat disappointing 2019 end after he broke his fibula in November. But despite a drop-off in sack production — he had four last season after eight in 2018 — he remained a disruptive pass rusher.

In just 202 pass-rush snaps, he had 23 hurries and five quarterback hits, along with the four sacks, making his pressure rate, according to PFF, higher than that of projected first-round pick K'Lavon Chaisson. With Matthew Judon's future uncertain and Tyus Bowser entering the final year of his rookie deal, the Ravens need new blood at outside linebacker.

Wide receiver: Southern California's Michael Pittman Jr. A 6-4, 223-pound possession receiver, Pittman has sure-thing hands and strong route-running ability. He broke out as a senior, finishing with 101 catches for 1,275 yards and 11 touchdowns. Pittman doesn't have an elite get-off or field-stretching speed, but he's a dependable blocker with a high football IQ.

Defensive line: Missouri's Jordan Elliott. Elliott initially committed to Michigan, signed with Texas and left after his freshman season for Missouri, where he broke out in 2019. Despite middling sack production (three as a reserve in 2018 and three as a starter in 2019), he had 33 quarterback pressures last season, according to PFF. The 6-4, 302-pound Elliott has power and quickness, but his play speed runs hot and cold.

Inside linebacker: Appalachian State's Akeem Davis-Gaither. For a 6-1, 224-pound linebacker, Davis-Gaither was used all over the field last season, getting 316 snaps in coverage and 190 as a pass rusher, many of them lined up against offensive tackles according to PFF. Despite an early-season stress fracture in his foot that kept him from running at the combine, Davis-Gaither had 104 tackles (14½ for loss), five sacks and eight pass breakups in 2019.

Interior offensive line: Fresno State's Netane Muti. One of the draft's most polarizing prospects, Muti has a highlight reel that will make you laugh and an injury history that will make you cringe. He suffered an Achilles tendon injury in 2016, then ruptured his other Achilles in 2018, then had a season-ending Lisfranc (foot) injury last year. In Muti's 19-game sample size, though, the Tonga native was a bulldozer.